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ABSTRACT

This report presents provincial/territorial and national data on child care in Canada. Data collection methods included document examination for nation-wide statistics, and questionnaires sent to each provincial/territorial child care office, followed by telephone interviews with an official from each jurisdiction to update or clarify data. The report begins with a description of the federal role in Canadian child care. The bulk of the document is then organized according to province/territory, with each section containing the following information on child care: (1) relevant legislation; (2) contact information for the provincial official responsible for child care; (3) a description of child care services, including unregulated care, regulated care such as early childhood centers, school-age child care centers, family day care homes, and occasional centers; (4) policy and services for children with special needs; (5) aboriginal child care; (6) number of children from birth to 12 years of age, number of children with mothers in the work force, and number of children from birth to 14 years of age with disabilities residing at home; (7) family-related work leave policy; (8) child care space statistics; (9) child care standards and regulations; (10) child care funding; (11) child care administration; (12) description of the municipal role; (13) child care planning and development; (14) history of child care; (15) recent developments; and (16) key provincial/territorial child care organizations. The final section of the document presents in tabular format the national and provincial/territorial statistics. Contains 145 references. (KB)

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Martha Friendly

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THE FEDERAL ROLE

Like other Canadian health, education and social services, child care is under provincial/territorial jurisdiction. As this publication describes, each of Canada's twelve provincial/territorial jurisdictions has a child care program that includes legislated requirements for operation of services and a scheme of funding arrangements. Provincial/territorial child care programs across Canada have many variations - in funding arrangements, legislated requirements for the provision of care, methods and schedules of monitoring and enforcing the requirements, and the range of services offered.

The development of health, social and educational programs in Canada have almost always been influenced by the federal government. The Government of Canada's role has ranged from a history of molding the shape of elementary and secondary education, to a strong principle-determining function in health care, to a funding role, as in post-secondary education. Historically, the Government of Canada has had only an indirect policy role in child care although its role as a funder of child care or child care-related programs has been somewhat larger.

Historical role for the federal government

Although there was organized child care in many of Canada's provinces as early as the 1920s, the federal government had no role in child care until World War II. The 1942 *Dominion-Provincial War-time Agreement* initiated the first federal intervention in child care; 50 percent cost-sharing would be available to allow provinces to provide child care for children whose mothers were working in war-related industries. Only Ontario and Québec participated in this agreement. After the war, the federal government withdrew, and all 6 of Québec's child care centres, and many of Ontario's, closed.

The federal government's second foray into child care began with the introduction of the *Canada Assistance Plan*(CAP), intended to ameliorate or prevent poverty, in 1966. For the purposes of offering 50-50 federal/provincial cost-sharing, CAP treated child care like other welfare services or items of social assistance, stipulating that federal funds were available only for needy or potentially needy families, and setting some conditions for cost-sharing (to be eligible for cost-sharing, welfare services had to be regulated and not-for-profit). The introduction of CAP provided a new catalyst for child care services to develop across Canada.

In the 1970s, the federal Local Initiatives Projects (LIP) provided a significant impetus to the expansion of non-profit child care centres in many provinces, and in 1971 child care expenses were included for the purpose of a tax deduction in the provisions of the *Income Tax Act*.

The current federal role

In its 1995 budget, the federal government announced that the *Canada Assistance Plan* would end a year hence. The new *Canada Health and Social Transfer* would include federal funding for health, post-secondary education, and social welfare within one block fund. At the same time, the Government of Canada announced accelerated reductions to federal transfers for these programs. The *Canada Health and Social Transfer* took effect April 1, 1996.

A 1993 federal election committment to expansion (150,000 new regulated spaces in 3 years) was not realized. In 1996, the federal government identified child care as a provincial responsibility.

Federal/provincial/territorial initiatives which provide opportunities for child care in 1997 include the Reinvestment Strategy associated with the National Child Benefit announced in 1996 and the National Children's Agenda.

Federal spending on child care/early childhood development programs ($ in millions)

	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97
Canada Assistance Plan	300	300	-
Canada Health & Social Transfer	-	-	information not available
Aboriginal child care (INAC)	15	17	18
Aboriginal child care (First Nations and Inuit Child Care - HRDC)	-	6	26
Child Care Expense Deduction (Finance)	305-330	305-330	310-330
Dependent Care Allowances (HRDC-EI)	91	76	information not available
Child Care Initiatives/Child Care Visions (HRDC)	5.5	6	6
Aboriginal Head Start (Health Canada)	-	5.4	23

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the data provided in this publication and to use the same terminology and categories across provinces/territories whenever possible. This was not always possible, however, due to the use of different terminologies, categories and data collection methods. In some cases, information which is consistent by date or definition was not available; where this occurs, dates and definitions are provided or noted in the text.

METHOD

The data were assembled from a number of sources including existing Canada-wide sources (which are described below) and from each province/territory.

The method used to collect data from each province/territory followed a series of steps. First, a written questionnaire was sent to each provincial/territorial child care office, followed by a telephone interview with an official from each jurisdiction to assemble initial data for each province/territory. A draft of the material was then compiled and each jurisdiction was telephoned again with specific questions to update or clarify data and to provide additional comments. Further follow-up was done throughout the editing stage to ensure that the information is as accurate as possible. However, information that is consistent across Canada may not be available.

DATA SOURCES

Provincial context

Projected number of children 0-14 years
These data were derived from figures provided by Statistics Canada, Special Surveys Division, following the format historically used for the *Status of Day Care in Canada*.

Number of children 0-12 years
These data were derived from figures provided by Statistics Canada, Special Surveys Division, following the format historically used for the *Status of Day Care in Canada*.

Children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force

These data were derived from figures provided by Statistics Canada, Special Surveys Division, following the format historically used for the *Status of Day Care in Canada*.

Children 0-14 years identifying with an aboriginal group

Statistics Canada. (1993). *Age and sex*. 1991 Census of Canada. Aboriginal data. Catalogue No. 94-327, Table 1 of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Ottawa, ON: Industry, Science and Technology Canada.

For the 1991 Census, either a long or a short version of a standard questionnaire was distributed to all households across Canada. The long questionnaire included a question about the respondent's ethnic origins and another which asked if the respondent was registered under the *Indian Act of Canada*.

The long questionnaire was distributed to all households on reserves and settlements and to approximately 20% of the remaining households in Canada.

The *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*, done after the Census, attempted to include all people who indicated aboriginal origin and/or registration under the *Indian Act of Canada* on the long questionnaire.

Using a specifically constructed questionnaire developed in consultation with the Assembly of First Nations, the Native Council of Canada, and the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, data were collected fir the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey* through personal telephone or face-to-face interview between October 1991 and the end of January 1992. The Survey is an estimate based on 20% of the total population. Seventy-seven percent of interviews were completed in aboriginal communities and these with a high aboriginal population; the completion rate in the remainder of the country was 79%.

The Census question about ethnic origin allowed more than one response, suggesting that there may be double-counting. However, there appears to be little double-counting in the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*.

Children 0-14 years with disabilities residing at home

Statistics Canada. (1992). *Health and activity limitation survey: Back-up tables - Provinces and territories.* 1991 Census of Canada, Table 3. Ottawa, ON: Supply and Services Canada.

Statistics Canada defines a disability as "restriction or lack (resulting from impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being" (*The Daily*, October 13, 1992). The same publication notes that among children with disabilities, only 10% have a disability in the moderate to severe range.

A question was included in the long 1991 Census form (distributed to 20% of households) which asked whether a person in the household was limited in kind or amount of activity due to a long-term physical, mental, or health condition; it also included a question about whether long-term disabilities or handicaps were present. These two questions identified the population for a follow-up *Health and Activity Limitation Survey*. These data were collected through telephone or face-to-face interviews.

Information on children under 15 years was obtained from a parent or guardian. The overall response rate was 87%. Some data were not published by Statistics Canada because it considered the sampling error to be more than 33%. For the data used in this report, this problem arose primarily in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and is, in fact, a reflection of the relatively small total population, of which the *Survey* covered only 20%.

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child

Statistics Canada. (1996). *Labour Force annual averages 1995*. Catalogue No. 71-20-XPB, Tables 8 and 8a. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Industry.

Present figures on employed and unemployed women by age of child. These two categories are considered to be in the labour force. These figures do not include women who are not in the paid labour force (e.g. students or individuals enrolled in a training program, or other guardians responsible for children).

Family-related leave and benefits

Human Resources Development Canada. (1995). *Employment standards legislation in Canada, 1995-96 Edition*. Ottawa, ON: Author.

Federal and provincial expenditure

Provincial expenditures were collected from each province and territory. Federal expenditures were obtained from Human Resources Development Canada.

History

Pence, A. (Coordinating Ed.). (1992). *Canadian child care in context: Perspectives from the provinces and territories*. Volumes I and II. Canadian National Child Care Study. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada & Health and Welfare Canada.

Childcare Resource and Research Unit. (1993). *Child care in Canada: Provinces and territories 1993*. Toronto, ON: Childcare Resource and Research Unit, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

LEGISLATION

Newfoundland. House of Assembly. *The Day Care and Homemaker Services Act.* RSN 1990, CD-2 and *Newfoundland Regulation 219/82* as amended to O.C. 979/82.

Newfoundland. House of Assembly. *Newfoundland Regulation 63/93* as amended to O.C. 93-339, Section 28.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 4

Figure includes the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

Regulated child care

Day care centres
Centre-based care for no more than 13 hours/day (usual hours: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; extended hours: 6:30 a.m. - 8:15 p.m.) for 5 or more children from 2-12 years; may be full-day or part-day. Overnight care is not permitted in day care centres.

School-age child care centres
Centre-based care outside school hours for school-aged children up to 12 years.

Newfoundland does not offer regulated child care for infants or regulated family day care.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Newfoundland does not have a written policy regarding children with special needs.

One regulated centre works exclusively with children at environmental risk and their families, serving approximately 50 children at a time, some full-time and some part-time.

Fee subsidies for children with special needs integrated into child care centres may be available from government divisions other than Family and Rehabilitative Services.

There are no special training requirements for staff working with children with special needs.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Newfoundland does not fund or license on-reserve child care. There is one regulated Inuit child care centre in Nain, Labrador.

The federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 225 additional spaces for the Atlantic region by 1998. Atlantic region is defined as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland but not Labrador, which is included with Québec.

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PROVINCIAL CONTEXT [1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	19,344	0-2	10,166
3-5	21,781	3-5	12,213
6-12	56,861	6-12	32,969
Total 0-12	97,986	Total 0-12	55,348

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991) [2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	455	240	720
5-14 yrs	890	465	1,125

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991 estimated) [3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	458	490	545
Speech difficulty	335	235	559
Developmental handicap	too small to be estimated	95	190

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	8,000	55.3
3-5	9,000	61.8
6-15	26,000	63.3

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
17 weeks leave. Available to the natural mother only.

Adoption leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 17 weeks leave.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 12 weeks leave.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for the interpretation of the data.

2 - In Newfoundland, one reserve census subdivision, with an estimated total population of 188, was incompletely enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from this subdivision are not included.

3 - Excludes reserves. The figures related to developmental handicap should be used with caution. The standard deviation of the estimated developmental handicap figures is between 16.8% and 33.3%. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

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SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)	
Centre-based	
Full-day	2,946
Part-day	759
School-age	497
Total regulated spaces	4,202
Total regulated spaces (1996)	3,751
Children with special needs in regulated child care (03/95)	318
Children receiving subsidies (03/95)	748
Sponsorship of full-time regulated centre spaces (1995)	
Non-profit	1,002
For-profit	1,944

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size 50 spaces

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
2-3 yrs	1:6	25
3-6 yrs	1:8	25
7-12 yrs	1:15	25

Two rooms are required if more than 25 children are present.

Staff qualification requirements

Centre supervisors must have either a one year certificate in early childhood education and one year experience in a licensed centre, or a 2 year diploma with no specifications regarding experience. A related degree with one year's experience in a licensed centre is considered a comparable qualification. Supervisors approved prior to 1989 are not required to have these qualifications.

If more than 25 children are enrolled in a centre, the Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board recommends, but does not require, that a second person with supervisor qualifications be present.

Parent involvement

Centres are required to make efforts to encourage parents to visit their children in the centre. Otherwise, parent involvement is not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Newly hired staff must receive approval from the Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board. Monitoring and enforcement of standards is carried out by social workers employed by the Department of Social Services. Child care is a specialized case load for social workers, who are not required to have a background in early childhood education. Each of the 8 regions outside St. John's region has a day care social worker with a full- or half-time case load. St. John's has 4 full-time day care social workers for a total of 12 across the province. Newfoundland is providing a 2 week course in early childhood education for its social workers. Fire and health inspections are done by officials of the Welfare Institutions Licensing and Inspection Authority, a division of the Department of Health.

A license to operate a child care centre is issued to new centres by the Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board for an initial probational period of up to 6 months. After this period, licenses are renewed for periods of up to 3 years.

One monitoring visit to each centre every 6 months is required. Infractions result in a violation order to the centre requesting immediate compliance. The legislation authorizes a licensing hearing of non-compliance and closure of a centre if deemed appropriate.

Regulated family day care

Newfoundland does not have regulated family day care.

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FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to non-profit and for-profit service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

Eligibility for fee subsidies is determined either through an income or a needs test. Working parents are assessed for eligibility through an income test. Social assistance recipients whose children attend child care for child development purposes are assessed for eligibility through a needs test. Only single parents are eligible.

Rates for subsidized spaces are set by the provincial government. Subsidy rates are uniform regardless of the child's age.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is capped. When all the allocated funds have been spent, eligible parents go on a waiting list.

Approval from the Director of Family and Rehabilitative Services Division is required before a centre can have more than 50% of its spaces subsidized.

Surcharging of subsidized parents is not permitted.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$ 9,960	$18,240
2 parents, 2 children	$11,040	$19,320

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding
None

Recurring funding
None

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$2,980,000
One-time funding	None
Recurring funding	None
Total	$ 2,980,000

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995) $30.41
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95) $1,308,017

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

Information not available

Family day care rates

Information not available

Fees (1995)

Centres

Information not available

Family day care

Information not available

ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Social Services establishes standards and is responsible for allocating public funds on behalf of eligible families. The Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board makes decisions about opening centres, issues and monitors licenses and approves staff to work in child care programs. The Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board is a quasi-judicial body which is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and reports to the Minister of Social Services.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no provincial plan for the development of child care.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

1900 Child care facility was established by the Presentation Sisters in Renews.

1968 ***The Welfare Institutions Licensing Act*** was enacted, authorizing licensing of child care facilities for children two years of age and older and prohibiting child care facilities for children under two years of age.

1975 ***The Day Care and Homemaker Services Act*** was enacted, allowing public funds to be used for fee subsidies.

1976 ***Day Care and Homemaker Services Regulations*** were implemented with specific requirements for the operation of child care.

1982 New Regulations were drafted to replace those of 1976.

1989 The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador was established.

1990 *Day Care and Homemaker Services Act (1975)* was consolidated to become the *Day Care and Homemaker Services Act RSN 1990 C.D. -2.*

1991 A report on school-age child care, *School-age Child Care Study,* was released in January 1991. Some of the recommendations for regulation changes were made.

1993 In May, both the one-time start-up and the annual equipment grants were suspended due to budget reductions. A cap was placed on the expansion of the number of fee subsidies.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1994, the position of Director of Child Care was eliminated as was the Day Care Division. The Director was replaced with a Director of Family and Rehabilitative Services, with broader responsibilities within a restructured Division and a Child Care Specialist position who assumed responsibility for child care. In 1996, the position of Early Childhood Consultant was eliminated as was the Day Care Licensing Coordinator. The position of Policy Specialist (Child Care Services) was then filled.

The province had prepared and proposed a new child care act *(Child Care Services Act)* which is now deferred due to program and legislation review. New legislation is expected in 1997.

Newfoundland had early childhood training programs at 4 college locations. The provincial government has closed one of these locations and reduced a second program to permit intake of new students only every other year. The one year training program run by the Community Services Council was closed in 1996.

At the request of the Association of Child Care Administrators' Licentiate (previously the Owners' and Operators' Association), the provincial government issued a directive to employer-supported centres to cease to enrol children whose parents did not work at that location. The rationale is that in-kind funding (for occupancy costs) interfered with competition in the marketplace for the for-profit sector.

A 1996 *Report of the Select Committee on Children's Interests* recommended that investment be made in early childhood education. Responsibility for carrying this forward has been subsumed within a social strategic plan headed by the Minister of Social Services.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 21462
140 Torhay Road
St. John's, Newfoundland A1A 4J7
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Family Home Child Care Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
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Telephone: (709) 778-2630
Facsimile: (709) 368-2199

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

LEGISLATION

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Facilities Act.* 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Facilities Regulations.* 1988.

Prince Edward Island. Legislative Assembly. *The Welfare Act.* 1988.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

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CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted	5

If all children are under 2 years, 3 are allowed; 5 preschoolers if not more than 2 of them are younger than 2 years; 6 in a mixed-age group up to 10 years with no more than 2 younger than 2 years. Figures include the caregiver's own preschool age children.

Regulated child care

Early childhood centres
Group care for less than 24 hours/day for children from birth to 7 years including half-day kindergartens for children 5 years and half-day nursery schools for children 2-5 years.

School-age child care centres
Care outside school hours for school-age children (usually 6-12 years).

Family day care homes
Full-day care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of 7 children, including the caregiver's own children under 12 with a maximum of 3 children under 2 years.

Occasional centres
Care on a flexible basis for children between birth and 10 years.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Prince Edward Island does not have a written policy regarding children with special needs.

There are no segregated child care programs for children with disabilities. A special needs project, composed of government officials, early childhood educators, health practitioners and community representatives are expected to release a report in late 1997 with recommendations to include the development of a written policy and a requirement for specialized training for staff working with children with special needs.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Prince Edward Island does not fund or license child care programs on-reserve.

There is one kindergarten centre on-reserve but it is not licensed.

The federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 225 additional spaces for the Atlantic region by 1998. Atlantic region is defined as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland but not Labrador, which is included with Québec.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT[1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	5,309	0-2	3,794
3-5	5,892	3-5	4,106
6-12	13,906	6-12	9,588
Total 0-12	25,107	Total 0-12	17,488

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)[2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	65	nil	nil
5-14 yrs	120	nil	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991 estimated)[3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	86	too small to be estimated	too small to be estimated
Speech difficulty	too small to be estimated	126	too small to be estimated
Developmental handicap	50	45	45

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-5*	6,000	75.8
6-15	7,000	81.5

** breakdown not available*

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 17 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for interpretation of data

2 - In Prince Edward Island, three census subdivisions, on reserves and settlements, with an estimated total population of 145, were either incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. The data from these subdivisions are not included.

3 - Excludes reserves. The figures related to developmental handicap should be used with caution. The standard deviation of the estimated developmental handicap figures is between 16.8% and 33.3%. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting. For example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

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SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)

Centre-based

	Full-time	Part-time
Infants	64	—
Preschool	1,624	—
School-age	—	568
Special needs	55	—
Kindergarten/nursery	—	1,549
Total full-time spaces	1,743	
Total part-time spaces		2,117

Family day care	28
Total regulated spaces	**3,888**
Total regulated spaces (1996)	**3,887**
Children with special needs in regulated child care (03/95)	55
Children receiving subsidies (1995)	382

Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (1995)

Non-profit	2,636
For-profit	1,224

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size: 50 spaces

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-2 yrs	1:3	6
2-3 yrs	1:5	not specified
3-5 yrs	1:10	not specified
5-6 yrs	1:12	not specified
7+ yrs	1:15	not specified

Staff qualification requirements

Centre supervisors and one full-time staff member in each program must have at least a one or 2 year early childhood development diploma or university child study degree.

Thirty hours of in-service training every 3 years is required for all staff.

Parent involvement

Not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Each year, every centre is visited for licensing purposes by Early Childhood Services, which observes programming, and by the Child Care Facilities Board, which concentrates primarily on administration. Annual inspections are required by the Fire Marshall's office and the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Health and Social Services.

If a centre is in non-compliance with the legislation, it may operate under a regular license but is given a specific time-frame in which to comply. A centre may be permitted to have a provisional license for a period of 6 months, or it may have its license revoked or not renewed. A centre receiving a provisional license, or having its license revoked or not renewed may appeal directly to the Minister who then must establish an Appeal Board. This Board must conduct an inquiry and render a decision within 30 days.

Regulated family day care

Regulation

Providers are individually licensed.

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Maximum capacity
Up to 7 children including the provider's own children under 12 years, with a maximum of 3 children under 2 years.

Provider qualification requirements
A 30 hour training program, 2 letters of reference and current first-aid certificate.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Early Childhood Services conducts a program review using *The Family Day Care Rating Scale*. Annual inspections are made by a Child Care Facilities Board inspector, an inspector for the Fire Marshall's office and an Environmental Health officer.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is usually determined by an income test. However, an applicant may choose to be needs tested according to the Welfare Assistance Regulations.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is capped. It changed from an open-ended system to a limited one in 1992/93. If funds are unavailable, eligible families are placed on one of 5 regional waiting lists.

Any regulated non-profit or for-profit child care program is eligible to enrol children receiving subsidies.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point (estimated maximum)
1 parent, 1 child	$10,080	$22,200
2 parents, 2 children	14,880	39,168

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases. In Prince Edward island, there is no fixed break-even point. The figures shown represent a family composition which determines subsidy eligibility generously.

Maximum subsidy by age of child (1995)

0-2 yrs	$22/day
2-3 yrs	18/day
3+ yrs	17/day

There is no minimum user fee. Surcharging above subsidy rates is not permitted.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

All licensed non-profit and for-profit child care centres are eligible for all funding programs.

One-time funding
None

Recurring funding
Operating grants
Centre-based programs, full-day
$0.91/day/space

Centre-based programs, part-time

12 children or fewer	$682/year
24 children or fewer	1,092/year
50 children or fewer	1,820/year

Funding is calculated according to months of operation and is less than stated above if the program operates less than 12 months a year.

Family day care homes
$450/year. This funding is currently frozen.

Infant incentive funding
$250/year. An annual grant provided to licensed and family day care programs enrolling at least one child younger than 2 years on a regular basis for at least 6 months. (In addition to operating grants)

Special needs funding
Available to centre-based and family day care programs to pay staff to provide individualized programming for children with special needs. The funding will cover wages up to $11.20/hour.

Other funding
Training/Professional development
Funds are allocated annually by the Health and Community Services Agency to assist in the professional development of early childhood educators by supporting workshops or conferences.

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$1,013,760
One-time funding	None
Recurring funding	668,747
Total	$1,682,507

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 years (1995) $67.01
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/1995) $749,668

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs	
Assistant teachers	$6.13
Teachers	7.66
Teacher directors	10.18
Administrative directors	10.18
Overall mean hourly wage	$7.99

Family day care

Information not available

Fees (1995, average monthly)

Child care centres and family day care	
Infant	$530
Preschool	375
School-age - summer	375
School-age - before/after	175

ADMINISTRATION

The Health and Community Services Agency is responsible for the regulation of child care services and management of government funds allocated to child care.

The Health and Communuty Services Department is responsible for federal/provincial issues and broad government policy.

The Child Care Facilities Board is responsible for standards and regulations, monitoring, qualifications and certification of child care staff. The Board includes 6 members who represent the Health and Social Services System, the Department of Education, the Early Childhood Association and the public at large, and a Chair who is a public official.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Five principles guide the planning of child care: quality, affordability, accessibility, providing for children with special needs and parent involvement.

Application to the Child Care Facilities Board for a license must include a needs assessment that documents the need for child care in a particular area.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1950s Head Start program for economically and culturally disadvantaged children established in Charlottetown.

1969 Child care centres initiated in north-eastern rural Prince Edward Island with federal Regional Economic Expansion funding.

1971 St. Andrew's Child Development Centre was established as a full-time child care centre. The provincial Department of Social Services was responsible for monitoring and funding.

Funding arrangements were established to pay the full operating costs for six non-profit, community-based centres.

1973 Enactment of *The Child Care Facilities Act*.

1974 The Early Childhood Development Association was established as a professional association of early childhood educators.

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1977 The operating cost system was changed to a subsidy program for non-profit and for-profit programs.

1987 Implementation of direct grants to licensed child care programs.

1988 Introduction of special needs grants to child care programs enrolling children with special needs.

1993 Report of a working group set up by the Minister of Education has recommended that the age of entry into kindergarten and grade one remain as they have been and that a standard kindergarten play-based curriculum be designed. Work of this committee is ongoing and linked to the development of a common Atlantic curriculum for elementary and secondary schools.

Operating grants for both centre-based and family day care programs were reduced by 9% from 1992 levels, except for infants.

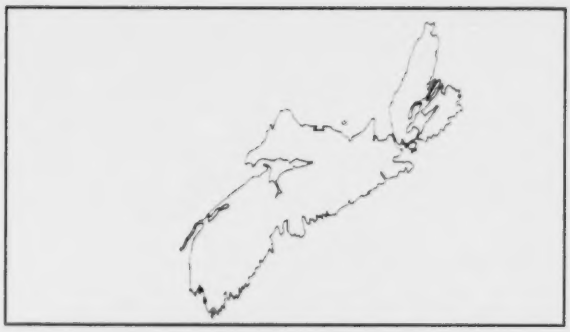
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Child care legislation is currently under review. Consideration is being given to extending centre license renewals to every 3 years, and extending certification of staff (approval to work in child care programs) to every 6 years. The introduction of a criminal record check for staff in licensed child care, and possibly, family day care homes is also expected.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Early Childhood Development Association of
Prince Edward Island
R.R. #2
Souris, Prince Edward Island C0A 2B0
Telephone: (902) 687-3437
Facsimile: (902) 628-1982

NOVA SCOTIA



LEGISLATION

Nova Scotia. Legislative Assembly. *Day Care Act and Regulations*. Chapter 6, 1980. As amended.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Goranka Vukelich
Acting Director
Prevention and Child Care Services
Department of Community Services
P.O. Box 696
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T7
Telephone: (902) 424-5489
Facsimile: (902) 424-0708

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 6

Six children who may be of mixed-age groups including the caregiver's own preschool children. If all children, including the caregiver's own, are school-age 8 children are permitted.

Regulated child care

Child care centres
Care in a group setting for less than 24 hours/day for 7 or more children from 0-12 years. This includes: full-day child care centres, preschools, nursery schools, parent co-operatives, child development centres (half-day program, 2 to 3 days/week) and programs for school-age children.

Family day care homes
Care in a private home for up to 6 children of mixed ages, including the provider's own children, or 8 school-age children, including the provider's own school-age children.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In Nova Scotia, registered child care centres may receive additional funding of up to $23.50 a day if they enrol children with special needs; parents using these services are not income tested. More specialized services may enrol 50% children with special needs together with 50% typical children. Two segregated full-time programs operate, one for children with behavioural problems, and the other for children with a variety of needs.

From 1993-1996, 10% of new subsidies were allocated for children with special needs.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

There are several child care programs on-reserve in Nova Scotia which the province does not fund or license.

The federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 225 additional spaces for the Atlantic region by 1998. Atlantic region is defined as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland but not Labrador, which is included with Québec.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT [1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	33,146	0-2	18,803
3-5	36,933	3-5	21,219
6-12	86,343	6-12	53,055
Total 0-12	156,422	Total 0-12	93,077

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	1,105	nil	nil
5-14 yrs	1,980	90	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated) [3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	515	728	652
Speech difficulty	580	1215	817
Developmental handicap	175	270	435

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	17,000	63.1
3-5	15,000	64.2
6-15	41,000	72.3

Family-related leave

Pregnancy leave (Maternity leave)
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 17 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

1 - See explanatory notes on page *i* for data sources and information important for interpretation of data.

2 - Includes all reserves and settlements in Nova Scotia. Statistics Canada (Catalogue 94-327, 1993) notes that the figure for Métis children age 5-14 years in Nova Scotia should be treated with caution since the standard deviation of the estimate is between 16.6% to 33.3%

3 - Excludes reserves. The figures related to developmental handicap should be used with caution. The standard deviation of the estimated developmental handicap figures is between 16.8% and 33.3%. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting. For example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

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SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)

Centre-based

Full-day	6,892
Part-time	3,584
Family day care	**169**
Total regulated spaces	10,645
Total regulated paces (1996)	10,949

Number of spaces on the basis of the age of the child is not available

Children with special needs in regulated child care (09/95)	120
Children receiving subsidies (03/95)	2,200

Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (1995)

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Non-profit	4,158	2,126	6,284
For-profit	2,734	1,458	4,192

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size (recommended but not mandatory) 60 spaces

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-17 mos	1:4	not specified
17 mos-5 yrs (full-day)	1:7	not specified
17 mos-5 yrs (part-day)	1:12	not specified
5-12 yrs	1:15	not specified

Staff qualification requirements
Centre director and 2/3 of the staff must have either a one or 2 year early childhood education certificate or diploma or 2 years experience, one course and a 35 hour workshop on child development and curriculum. All staff must have first-aid training.

Parent involvement
Parent meetings must be held at least every 3 months for full-day programs and every 6 months for part-time programs.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Initial inspections are conducted by provincial Prevention and Child Care Services staff. Most staff in regional offices who have generic caseloads are responsible for child care centre annual inspections. Regional staff are not required to have a background in early childhood education but are provided with early childhood education training annually.

Licenses can be issued for up to 24 months at a time for part-day programs.

If a centre is in non-compliance with the Act or Regulations, a license with conditions is issued for a specified time period. If the centre fails to meet the legislative requirements in this period, the Act authorizes the Minister to cancel the license and if the program continues to operate, it is open to prosecution for violation of the Act. The legislation allows for an appeal to the Minister if a license is suspended or cancelled.

Regulated family day care

Regulation
Family day care providers are supervised by licensed agencies.

Maximum capacity
Up to 6 children of mixed ages, including the caregiver's own preschool children, or up to 8 school-age children, including the caregiver's own school-age children

Provider qualification requirements
Provider must be at least 18 years, not on the child abuse registry, and cleared of having a criminal record by the RCMP or local police. No early childhood training or experience is required by the province.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
A family day care agency has responsibility for recruiting, screening, and selecting caregivers, approving homes, and on-going monitoring. Provincial staff conduct annual visits and evaluations of agencies to check for adherence to provincial guidelines for day care homes.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

There is a two-step eligibility process. Parents must be employed, seeking employment, attending school or a training program, receiving medical treatment or have a special or emergency child care need. If the parent meets one of these criteria, an income test is applied.

The provincial fee subsidy allotment is capped at 2,250 spaces (as of January 1966).

Only registered centres (non-profit centres operated by community-based organizations) and family day care agencies may enrol children receiving subsidies.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point (estimated maximum)
1 parent, 1 child	$16,812	$24,540
2 parents, 2 children	17,712	34,092

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy by age of child (1995)

Infants to 17 mos	$16.85/day
Preschoolers	16.85/day
School-age	16.85/day

Programs may surcharge subsidized parents if costs are above the maximum subsidy rate; they must charge full-fee parents at least the same as subsidized.

The minimum user fee is $2.00 per day (11/96).

Funding for child care programs (1995)

For the purposes of funding, the category "child care centres" includes:

Registered centres
Operated by non-profit boards of directors and eligible for subsidized spaces, salary enhancement grants, equipment grants

Non-profit centres
Operated by a board of directors, not eligible for subsidized spaces but eligible for salary enhancement grants.

For-profit centres
Operated by owners or managers and not eligible either for subsidized spaces or salary enhancement grants.

One-time funding
None.

Recurring funding
Equipment grant
Available to full-time registered centres. Up to $130/year/subsidized centre space may be used for the purchase of equipment only.

Infant incentive grant
Non-profit centres that enrol infants receive an additional $4.60/day/infant

Special needs funding
Up to $23.50/day/child with special needs. Intended to cover additional costs associated with integrating children with special needs. Eligibility is based on evidence of the child's disability and presentation of an individualized program plan. A few centres have designated allotment of special needs spaces; other special needs-subsidized spaces are allocated on a case-by-case, as needed basis. This grant is dependent on availability of funding.

Salary enhancement grant
Available to non-profit (registered and non-registered) centres and licensed family day care agencies. The grant is $3.25/day/space up to the maximum number of spaces based on the number of families whose net income falls within maximum provincial subsidy eligibility guidelines. (Whether or not the child is subsidized).

Family day care administrative grant
Available to licensed family day care agencies. The grant is either 10% of the approved per diem fee or based on the previous year's utilization of subsidized spaces of $1.65/day/space.

Child development centre grant
Annual grant provided to child development centres (part-day enrichment programs which primarily enrol children from low-income families). Maximum grant available cannot exceed 50% of the centre's approved operating budget and is based on the percentage of families whose income falls within provincial subsidy guidelines.

Other funding
Staff training grant
Available to staff employed in a licensed centre and enrolled in a recognized early childhood education training program are eligible for training grants provided they successfully complete the course. Up to 50% of the cost of courses to a maximum of $400/yr is available to staff to assist in meeting minimum training requirements. These funds were capped in 1996.

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$8,665,406
One-time funding	None
Recurring funding	
Equipment grants	266,596
Family day care administrative grant	44,700
Child development centre grant	209,000
Salary enhancement grant	2,291,211
Special needs grant	239,000
Total recurring funding	3,050,507
Other funding	
Staff training	35,000
Special projects	92,712
Total	$14,894,132
Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995) (estimate based on total provincial expenditures)	$95.22
Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95)	$5,921,812

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs
Information not available
Family day care rates
Information not available

Fees (1995 estimate, average monthly)

Child care centres and family day care	
Infant	$500
Preschool	400
School-age	250

ADMINISTRATION

In 1995, the Prevention and Child Care Services section of the Department of Community Services was responsible for the licensing and inspection of child care and preschool facilities, monitoring family day care agencies, administration of funding arrangements, program consultation for licensed programs and developing policy.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no provincial plan for the development of child care.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN NOVA SCOTIA

1966 Advocacy Committee on Day Care Services announced by the Minister of Public Welfare

1967 Enactment of the *Day Nurseries Act*.

1968 Formation of the Preschool Association of Nova Scotia.

1970 Founding of the Nova Scotia Day Care Advocacy Association and the Nova Scotia Child Care Council.

1972 Appointment of the Provincial Day Care Advisory Committee which introduced the day care subsidy program.

1977 A Task Force on Day Care Finance was struck with a mandate to review the per diem rate. This resulted in yearly increments in the subsidy rate and an annual review of the parent fee formula.

1980 Enactment of the revised *Day Care Act and Regulations*.

1983 Task Force on Day Care was announced. Its recommendations resulted in the introduction of annual equipment grants, additional subsidized child care spaces, special needs funding, and staff training standards along with staff training grants.

1987 Training specifications for staff working in child care came into effect.

1988 Provincial child care plan to triple spending for program expansion and enhancements subject to federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement was developed.

1989 Child care spending postponed.

1990 Child care staff in 40 centres across the province staged a one-day walkout to protest poor wages.

The Minister announced a Round Table on Day Care with representation from the child care community to conduct a review of the province's child care system.

A salary enhancement grant introduced.

1991 The Round Table on Day Care presented a series of recommendations to the Minister including a recommendation to establish the Round Table as a permanent advisory body. This recommendation was adopted. Other recommendations called for the creation of 500 new subsidized spaces and the adoption of salary scales for child care workers.

1992 Funding increases were announced including 100 new subsidies and increases in subsidy rates.

1993 Per diem and subsidy rates to non-profit infant child care and staff training grant increased.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1995, reorganization moved child care to Prevention and Child Care Services. More authority is moving to the regions.

In 1996, the minimum user fee (for subsidized parents) increased to $2.00/day. November 1996 subsidy rates will be decreased by size of increase.

Nova Scotia has had modest, consistent increases in the number of subsidies available. (Fifty new subsides annually for each of the past four years).

Child care legislation has been under review for four years.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Child Care Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia
c/o South End Day Care Centre
5594 Morris Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1C2
Telephone: (902) 420-1618
Facsimile: (902) 422-3968

Nova Scotia Family Day Care Association
c/o Sackville Family Day Care
70 Memory Lane
Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia B3C 2J3
Telephone: (902) 865-8982
Facsimile: (902) 865-6814

Child Care Connection-NS
Suite 100, 1200 Tower Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4K6
Telephone: (902) 423-8199 1-800 565-8199
Facsimile: (902) 492-8106

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NEW BRUNSWICK

LEGISLATION

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act*. 1980.

New Brunswick. Legislative Assembly. *Family Services Act and Day Care Regulations, 83-85*, as amended.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Diane Lutes
Provincial Day Care Services Consultant
Office for Family and Prevention Services
Department of Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 5100
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5G8
Telephone: (506) 869-6878
Facsimile: (506) 856-3312

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted	4

No more than 2 infants are allowed. Figure includes the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

Regulated child care

Day care centres
Part-time or full-time care for less than 24 hours/day for 4 or more infants; 6 or more preschoolers; 10 or more children 6-12 years; or 7 or more children from birth to 12 years.

School-age child care centres
Centre-based care outside school hours for school-age children up to 12 years.

Community day care homes
Care in a private home for up to 9 children aged 0-12 years including the provider's own children under 12 years, with a maximum of 3 children under 2 years, 5 children 2-5 years, 6 children of mixed ages or 9 children aged 6+ years.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Integrated Day Care Services Program (IDC) is targeted to children 2 to 5 years of age who have an identified developmental delay or who are at risk of developmental delay due to biological or environmental factors, including living in poverty. Eligibility is determined in consultation with health practitioners and providers, and includes a home assessment. Funding of up to $3,000 may be provided to integrated centres to facilitate inclusion. As of March 31, 1995, there were 72 integrated day care facilities with a total of 388 available spaces. No special training is required to work with special needs children.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

New Brunswick licenses one 30 space First Nations child care centre but does not fund any on-reserve child care programs.

Some Head Start programs on-reserve, serving in-need and at-risk aboriginal children, receive funding for Indian, Child and Family Services, through a tripartite agreement. This is a three-party agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick, the provincial department of Health and Community Services and the federal department of Indian and Northern Development.

The MicMac Maliseet Child Care Council was established in 1992 to address quality issues in First Nations centre-based child care.

The federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 225 additional spaces for the Atlantic region by 1998. Atlantic region is defined as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland but not Labrador, which is included with Québec.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT[1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)

0-2	26,662
3-5	28,949
6-12	70,425
Total 0-12	126,036

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)

0-2	14,972
3-5	15,170
6-12	43,224
Total 0-12	73,366

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)[2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	700	nil	nil
5-14 yrs	1,335	nil	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated)[3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	477	718	536
Speech difficulty	473	745	532
Developmental handicap	125	355	390

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	14,000	58.5
3-5	11,000	64.2
6-15	34,000	71.8

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Child care leave (Parental leave)
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 12 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for interpretation of data.

2 - In New Brunswick, 3 reserve census subdivisions were incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from these subdivisions are not included.

3 - Excludes reserves. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting. For example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

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SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)	
Centre-based	7,838
Family day care	114
Total regulated spaces	7,952
Total regulated spaces (1996)	8,222
Children with special needs in regulated child care (10/95)	220
Children receiving subsidies (10/95)	1,363
Sponsorship of full-time regulated centre spaces (1995 estimate)	
Non-profit	4,679
For-profit	3,159

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size	60 spaces

New child care programs are licensed for a maximum of 60 spaces. Some older centres with larger enrollment exist.

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
less than 2 yrs	1:3	9
2-3 yrs	1:5	10
3-4 yrs	1:7	14
4-5 yrs	1:10	20
5-6 yrs	1:12	24
6-12 yrs	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements
No early childhood education training or experience is required. Staff must be at least 16 years old. Staff 16-19 years old are required to be supervised by a primary staff member who must be at least 19 years old. All staff must have first-aid training.

Parent involvement
Non-profit centres are required to have a board of directors whose members include at least 25% parents of enrolled children. All centres must hold at least one parent information meeting per year.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Nine regional coordinator positions are responsible for monitoring compliance with the regulations. Child care centres receive one full-day inspection and a minimum of 3 unannounced visits per year.

If a centre is not in compliance, a temporary license is issued for 6 months. During this period the program is expected to come into compliance. The regulations provide the authority to suspend or cancel a license if the program is deemed to pose a danger to children. Appeals of a suspended or cancelled license are reviewed in accordance with the Family and Community Social Services Division's Administrative Review policy.

Regulated family day care (called community day care homes)

Regulation
Individually licensed

Maximum capacity

Infants	3
2-5 yrs	5
6 yrs and over	9
Combination of ages	6

The capacity maximums include the provider's own children under 12 years.

Provider qualification requirements
Providers must be at least 19 years old and have first-aid training. No early childhood education training or experience is required.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
The nine regional coordinator positions are responsible for licensing and monitoring community day care homes. Community day care home providers are issued an initial Certificate of Approval and must make an annual request for certificate renewal. The regional coordinators spot-check community day care homes to ensure compliance with the regulations.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents through the Day Care Assistance Program.

Eligibility is determined through a needs and income test which is administered by the Department of Human Resources Development-New Brunswick.

The provincial fee subsidy budget is capped. There is no longer an open-ended first come, first served subsidy program. Allocation of spaces is based on geographical, program, and/or child/group-at-risk criteria assessment.

Subsidies are payable to any regulated non-profit or for-profit child care centre or community day care home.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
All family sizes	$15,000	-
1 child, 2 yrs and older	15,000	$23,100
1 child, under 2 years	15,000	24,180

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy by age of child (1995)

0-2 yrs	$17.00/day
2-6 yrs	15.00/day
6-12 yrs	7.50/day

There is no minimum user fee. Programs may surcharge subsidized parents.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding
None

Recurring funding
Special needs funding
Special needs funding is provided to integrated day care centres under Early Childhood Initiatives. Integrated Day Care Services Program at an average of $3,000/child/year. Funding facilitates the child's inclusion in the day care facility and may be spent on support personnel, nutrition, equipment. Actual amount provided per child varies according to specific needs of the child.

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$2,600,000
One-time funding	None
Recurring funding	600,000
Total	$3,200,000

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995) $25.39
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95 estimate) $900,000

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

Information not available

Family day care rates

Information not available

Fees (1995 estimate, average monthly)

Centres	
Infants	$405
Preschool	373
School-age	194
Family day care	
Infants	$374
Preschool	352
School-age	154

ADMINISTRATION

The Office for Family and Prevention Services, Family and Community Social Services Division, Department of Health and Community Services is responsible for the provincial coordination of the Day Care Services Program.

Six regional offices of the Family and Community Services Division conduct approval and monitoring of child care programs.

The Department of Human Resources Development-New Brunswick administers the Day Care Assistance Program.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no provincial plan for the development of child care.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

1970s Child care centres were established under federal Local Initiatives Project grants.

1974 Enactment of the *Day Care Act* which included 40 staffing, health and safety, and administration regulations. It also provided for a fee subsidy program for eligible low-income families. The Act authorized the Department of Social Services to license child care centres and administer fee subsidies.

1980 The *Family Service Act* included child care services, viewing them as a child development service.

1982 One year training program for child care workers was established.

1983 *Day Care Regulation 83-85* was enacted and the *Day Care Facilities Standards* were developed.

1989 A Minister of State for Childhood Services and the Office for Childhood Services were established.

1991 ***Playing for keeps: Improving our children's quality of life*, a policy framework for children's services in New Brunswick was released.**

Kindergarten programs were introduced as part of the public school system. Kindergarten programs operating within child care centres are no longer covered by child care legislation or the Office for Childhood Services. They are considered to be similar to private schools.

1992 In September, the provincial government announced the Early Childhood Initiatives, designed to provide targeted services to foster the healthy growth and development of priority children and their families and to enhance family self-sufficiency.

The MicMac Maliseet Child Care Council was established to address First Nations centre-based child care quality issues.

1993 The provincial government established a working group on child care to study the issues of staff training, wage enhancement, and standards. The provincial government initiated a review process and established a Child Care Review Committee with representation from the Early Childhood Coalition Petite Enfance, Garde de Jour/NB Day Care Association, Departments of Health and Community Services, Income Assistance, Advanced Education and Labour, and the Executive Council.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1994, a document titled *New Directions: Child Care Reforms* outlined changes to regulated child care. Four directions for change were identified: improving quality, addressing the lack of affordable, accessible child care as a barrier to employment; forging partnerships for better child care; monitoring the implementation of the changes.

Quality issues were to be addressed through promotion of parent awareness, strengthening regulations, implementing minimum training requirements, and enhancing community college early childhood training. A new pamphlet and a bookmark for parents was developed, the legislation was reviewed, changes to training requirements were implemented but now the cost of part-time training is assumed entirely by the student. A new early childhood curriculum was launched.

With regard to improving affordability: recurring grants were eliminated, and fees increased. Subsidy eligibility

levels went up (from $11,000 annual family income to $15,000 annual family income). Subsidy rates were increased from $14.00 to $17.00 per day for infants, and $12.00 to $15.00 per day for preschoolers. The number of children accessing subsidy increased considerably. A majority of the children accessing subsidies are welfare recipients. There is a 30% vacancy rate in centres.

A plan for monitoring was developed, and the Annual Day Care Survey was enhanced.

Since 1994, student parents have been required to take subsidies as part of student loans, and repay them.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Early Childhood Coalition Petite Enfance
123 York Street
Suite 201
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3N6
Telephone: (506) 459-6755
Facsimile: (506) 459-6783

QUÉBEC

LEGISLATION

Québec. Assemblée Nationale. *An Act Respecting Child Day Care*. R.S.Q., chapter S-4.1, as amended October, 1992.

Québec. Assemblée Nationale. *Regulation Respecting Child Day Care Centres*, S-4.1, R.2., as amended May, 1993.

Québec. Assemblée Nationale. *Regulation Respecting Home Day Care Agencies and Home Day Care*. O.C. 1669-93, December, 1993.

Québec. Assemblée Nationale. *Regulation Respecting Exemption and Financial Assistance for a Child in Day Care*. R.S.Q., chapter S-4.1, r. O.O.I., O.C. 69-93. January, 1993.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Jacqueline Bédard, Sous Ministre,
Ministère de la Famille et de d'enfance
600, rue Fullum
Montréal, Québec H2X 4S7
Telephone: (514) 873-6707
Facsimile: (514) 873-6468

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 6

Figure includes the caregiver's own children.

Jardins d'enfants (nursery schools)
Programs for a minimum of 7 children 2-5 years on a regular basis for up to 4 hours/day.

Milieu scolaire (school-age child care)
Programs provided by a school board for children attending kindergarten or elementary grades. These services are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education. Funds for school-age programs are granted by government to l'Office which delegates responsibility for administration to the Ministry of Education.

Haltes-garderies (stop-over centres)
Care for a least 7 children between birth and the end of primary school on a casual, drop-in basis for up to 24 consecutive hours.

Regulated child care

Garderies (child care centres)
Group care for less than 24 hours a day for 7 to 60 children from birth to end of primary school.

Milieu familial (family day care).
Care for up to 6 children, including the provider's own children, from birth to the end of primary school in a private home supervised by a licensed agency. If the provider is assisted by another adult, care may be offered for up to 9 children, including the provider's own children.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Québec has a policy that encourages inclusion of children with special needs in regular programs. Several grants are available to facilitate this.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Québec regulates on-reserve child care. In 1995, there were 6 child care centres and one family day care agency on-reserve, and several other centres under construction. On-reserve child care in Québec is funded through several agreements between First Nations communities and federal and provincial governments.

In addition, the federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets growth of more than 500 spaces in additional First Nations and Inuit child care by 1998. The Québec Native Women's Association plays a key role in facilitating the development of First Nations child care in Québec (and Labrador).

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT[1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)

0-2	275,026
3-5	290,252
6-12	627,028
Total:	1,192,306

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)

0-2	163,666
3-5	160,866
6-12	399,561
Total:	724,093

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)[2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	5,005	950	1,180
5-14 yrs	8,360	1,530	1,800

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated)[3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	5688	6140	6636
Speech difficulty	3819	3997	5632
Developmental handicap	too small to be estimated	3435	4655

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	149,000	61.3
3-5	113,000	67.0
6-15	336,000	74.5

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
18 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Birth leave
5 days leave. Available to the natural father only. Two days paid.

Adoption leave
5 days available to **each** of the mother and the father. Two days paid.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 34 weeks leave. Available to natural or adoptive parents.

Family-related leave (child care leave)
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 5 days/year leave. May only be taken for emergency child care purposes.

See Recent Developments for changes to family-related leave and benefits.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for the interpretation of the data.

2 - In Québec, one reserve census subdivision was incompletely enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from this subdivision are not reported.

3 - Excludes reserves. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)	
Centre-based	
Infant/Toddler	4,902
Preschooler	48,009
Family day care	17,871
Total spaces regulated by l'office	70,782
Total spaces regulated by l'Office (1996)	76,029
Kindergarten/school-age (Ministry of Education)	40,670
Children with special needs in regulated child care	1,135
Children receiving subsidies (03/97)	41,520
Sponsorship of full-time regulated centre spaces (1995)	
Non-profit	35,494
Municipal	150
For-profit	17,267

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size 60 spaces

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-18 mos	1:5	15
18 mos-5 yrs	1:8	30
6-12 yrs	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements
One third of staff must have a college diploma or university degree in early childhood education (ECE) or 3 years of experience plus a college attestation degree or certificate in ECE.

Parent involvement
All child care services must have a board of directors with 51% parent members or a 5-member parent advisory committee. The parent committee must be consulted on issues of service delivery.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
L'Office des services de garde à l'enfance issues permits (licenses) to child care centres and family day care agencies for up to a 2 year period. Haltes garderies (stop-over centres) and nursery schools were not regulated in 1995. Licenses are not required for child care services for school-age children provided on school premises (these are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education). However, these programs must notify l'Office of their operation and keep attendance records.

L'Office inspectors may visit any licensed operation to monitor its compliance with regulations. There is no regulatory requirement for the frequency of visits by inspectors.

L'Office inspectors of child care centres are not required to have a degree, diploma, or training in early childhood education.

If a centre is found to be in non-compliance with legislative requirements but there is no immediate danger to the health or well-being of the children, l'Office informs the centre's board, in writing, that the program is in non-compliance with a specific regulation(s) and requests rectification. A follow-up check is done by an inspector when sufficient time is deemed to have passed. Repeated instances of non-compliance which do not pose an immediate threat may result in a court hearing for the operator. Québec does not issue conditional or provisional licenses. The operator may appeal the loss of license (or the refusal by l'Office to renew a license) to a tribunal set up by l'Office to hear the case and may be represented by a lawyer. If not satisfied with the tribunal's ruling, the operator may appeal a decision to the Commission des affaires sociales. Its decision is binding.

Regulated family day care

Family day care providers are supervised by licensed agencies.

Maximum capacity
Up to 6 children (including the provider's children under 12 years); no more than 2 children may be under 18 months. If the provider is assisted by another adult, they may care for 9 children, including the provider's own children, with not more than 4 children under 18 months.

The maximum capacity for a family day care agency is 150 spaces.

Provider qualification requirements

Family Day Care Agency Worker

Agency staff's duties include approving/hiring people responsible for home day care, providing technical and professional support to such persons, and exercising control and supervision for such persons. Agency staff must have at least 3 years of full-time experience working with children or supervising or directing people.

Family Day Care Provider

Family day care providers must hold a first-aid certificate and complete a training program lasting at least 24 hours pertaining to child development, health and diet issues and organization and leadership in a "life environment". Many agencies provide additional training for providers.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

Family day care agency staff are required to do on-site visits. L'Office monitors agency records of home visits and activity reports.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

To be eligible for a full-time fee subsidy, a parent must be employed, enrolled in job training or an educational program, on unemployment insurance seeking work or be referred by local health and social services. A part-time fee subsidy is also available to help pay for part-time child care regardless of parents' labour force participation.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$12,000	$35,800
2 parents, 2 children	16,800	40,300

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy (1995)

Based on the provincial funding plan, l'Office determines whether a centre will be funded. If a centre is funded, all eligible children in attendance may be subsidized. Between March 1995, and March 1996, l'Office did not license any new centres. The provincial government accepted this one year hiatus in order to reevaluate the process of licensing centres.

Subsidies are based on the actual child care fee rather than a flat rate. The maximum subsidy is 60% of the actual fee plus a basic amount of $4/child/day. Maximum subsidy/child is $18.57/day.

Minimum user fee is $1/day/child. If a child is referred by a social service agency, additional assistance is available through a grant from the Program for Support to Disadvantaged Families for Child Day Care.

Child care centres and home day care agencies may surcharge subsidized parents more than the maximum daily subsidy.

However, in 1996, the Québec government announced that all funding to for-profit centres, including subsidies, would end.

A program may be licensed to operate but not be allocated funded spaces and therefore not be eligible for any grants from l'Office or to receive fee subsidies.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding

Project management grant

Available to new non-profit centres with a parent majority board of directors and new family day care agencies. Centres and family day care agencies are eligible to receive up to $6,512.

Start-up grant

Available to non-profit centres with a majority parent board of directors, school boards, and municipalities. Up to 50% of their start-up costs covered to a maximum of $147,600 for owned premises and $87,905 for rented premises.

Special needs funding

Funds are available to all non- and for-profit licensed programs to assist in the integration of children with special needs.

Special needs equipment	$ 1,629
Individual case study	342

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Relocation grant
Up to 50% of actual moving costs available to non-profit centres. Maximum of $137,543 for owned premises and $77,887 for rented premises.

A maximum grant of $65,138 may be used for capital improvements only if the centre is in the process of buying the premises.

Recurring funding
Operating grants
Available to non-profit centres with parent majority boards of directors and centres whose license is held by a municipality or school board (for programs other than school-age child care). The operating grant, based on a formula including program size, enrollment, fixed costs, etc., provides an estimated $2500-$3000 a year per preschool-age child.

Family day care agencies with 50 or more spaces receive an annual base grant of $23,698. Family day care agencies with less than 50 spaces receive $11,849 plus $325 annually for each child enrolled and up to $1,302 annually per provider, depending on number of home day care services coordinated by the agency to a maximum of providers at 25% of total number of licensed spaces.

Special needs funding
$19.66/child/day is available to all non- and for-profit licensed programs to assist in the integration of children with special needs.

Special needs school-age grants
School-age child care services receive a flat rate per child from the Ministry of Education.

first child	$ 1,000
each additional child	800

Other funding
Group benefit grants
All non- and for-profit licensed centres are eligible for grants to purchase group insurance, including maternity leave, extended health and dental benefits, from a designated insurance company. The amount of the grant is equivalent to 1.38% of the total insurable payroll for extended health and dental benefits and 1.62% of the total insurable payroll for maternity leave.

Child care organization grants
Organizations which promote the development and maintenance of quality child care through public information and education are eligible to receive $6,813 plus $281 per member up to a maximum of $30,698.

Provincial expenditures on child care 1994/95

Fee subsidy	86,835,450
One-time funding	1,972,148
Recurring funding	111,337,441
Special needs funding	2,156,465
Other funding	1,393,220
Total	$203,694,724

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1994/95) $170.84
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements of child care expenditures (1994/95) $61,295,900

Salaries (1994)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

Teachers (non-profit)	$10.08
Teachers (for-profit)	8.08
Administrative directors (non-profit)	15.31
Administrative directors (for-profit)	10.62
Overall mean hourly wage	$ 10.08

Family day care

$16.99/day/child

Fees (1995 estimate, average monthly)

Centres	**$444**
Family day care	**$374**

ADMINISTRATION

L'Office des services de garde à l'enfance is a semi-autonomous body appointed by the provincial government. Fifty-one per cent of its voting membership must be parents who are child care users. L'Office is responsible for setting standards and regulations, administration of the legislation, administration of grants, and coordination of the child care system across the province.

Le Ministère de l'Éducation is responsible for school-age child care services provided by a school board for children attending kindergarten or elementary school.

L'office and the Ministère de l'Éducation have reciprocal obligations related to child care for school-aged children. Most notable are exchanging information and making grants available.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

Municipalities may hold licenses to operate child care facilities. In 1995, 3 municipalities held licenses and provided 50 child care spaces.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Québec uses a province-wide planning process, which sets priorities by region. *The Regulation respecting the annual fixing and allotment for new centres and agencies of the number of places for which an exemption, financial assistance or grants may be obtained* (1992) sets the criteria for the development of new services that are eligible for funding.

The Québec government has a policy which favours the development of child care services that are controlled by user-parents. L'Office issues licenses (permits) to new child care services as the requirements of the *Act and Regulations* are met. However, if these services are not accepted for funding through the *Regulation* noted above, they are not eligible for any grants, not even parent fee subsidization.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN QUÉBEC

1887 Montréal Day Nursery, an anglophone child care centre, was established by charitable organizations.

1942 Québec signed the *Dominion-Provincial War Time Agreement* with the federal government. This enabled cost-sharing for child care centres attended by children whose mothers were employed in industries essential to the war effort. Six centres were established in Montréal.

1945 Government financing for child care centres ended and centres closed.

1950s Growth of private child care centres.

1969 The provincial government began to license existing child care centres and financed selected child care centres located in low-income districts of Montréal.

1972 A system of tax credits for mothers using child care was established.

1974 The provincial government adopted the *Bacon Plan*, a policy paper on child care issues which recognized the existing network of child care centres and recommenced financial aid to low income parents.

1979 An *Act Respecting Child Day Care* created l'Office des services de garde à l'enfance to coordinate and promote development of child care services. Operating grants were introduced.

1980 L'Office took on full responsibility for regulated child care services.

1983 *Regulations* for the *Act* were adopted.

1988 L'Office issued a policy statement on child care services which announced a five-year expansion plan to double the number of licensed child care spaces by 1994. The paper also identified target programs, such as infant child care and workplace child care, and extended grants to for-profit centres.

1989 The child care community organized a one-day walkout in protest against some aspects of the 1988 policy statement.

The government announced enhanced parent fee subsides, the provision of assistance for child care training and staff development, and increased assistance to facilitate the integration of children with handicaps.

1992 A regulation was adopted which fixed the number of spaces eligible for funding on an annual basis.

Unionized child care staff took part in a one-day walkout protesting poor wages.

1993 New regulations were adopted relating to parent fee subsidies.

Summer child care programs which are not operated as regulated centres or regulated family day care became eligible to receive funding from l'Office.

Concertaction inter-régionale des garderies du Québec organized a province-wide demonstration. The demands were for a freeze on parent fees and $1.5 million for wage enhancement for the non-profit sector in the short term.

38 BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1994, a new regulation concerning agencies and family day care was issued. This regulation addresses permits, staff qualifications of the agency, qualification for the person responsible for family day care, security, hygiene, heating, and minimal standards.

In 1994/95, public consultation was held to consider solutions for financing of child care. The new formula takes account of program size, expenses, and occupancy rates, and grants are paid on a monthly basis.

In 1995, an extensive public consutation process on the education system included proposals to change the jurisdiction, delivery, and funding of early childhood education. It considered introduction of full-day kindergarten for 4- and 5-year-olds through an integrated early childhood system.

A moratorium on new permits for child care services was in force for a year from April, 1995. In May, 1996, the government announced that for-profit centres would no longer receive any funding in Québec.

In October, 1996, the Minister of Education announced the government's decision "to develop a comprehensive early childhood policy that will meet the needs of children from 0 to 12 years old and give concrete expression to the new educational dimension of early childhood services". For children 0-4, integrated early childhood centres would be developed, building on current child care centres and family day care agencies, and there would be an increase in regulated spaces. Part-time kindergarten, supplemented by school-age services, would be maintained where 4-year-olds are currently enrolled in kindergarten; these will be expanded in high risk communities. New services for 4-year-olds will be developed through the new integrated early childhood centres. Full-day kindergarten under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education will be accessible to all 5-year-olds.

In January, 1997, a White Paper called *Nouvelles dispositions de la Politique familiale: Les enfants au coeur de nos choix*, including more detailed information, was released. The new services would be available to all 5-year-olds beginning September, 1997. Development of 4-year-old services will be incremental, beginning in disadvantaged communities. For children aged 0-4 years, 73,000 spaces will be created by 2001, and parent fees of a flat $5.00/day for all families will be introduced incrementally.

Paid paternity leave of 5 weeks will be added to the parental insurance program, and it is proposed to pay maternity and parental leave at 75% of wage replacement.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Concertaction inter-régionale des garderies du Québec
14, rue Aberdeen
St. Laurent Québec J4P 1R3
Telephone: (514) 672-2799
Facsimile: (514) 672-9648

Association des services de garde en milieu scolaire du Québec
13, rue Saint-Laurent
Longuil, Québec J4H 4B7
Telephone: (514) 646-2753
Facsimile: (514) 646-1807

Association of Early Childhood Educators/Association des éducateurs et éducatrices de la petite enfance
828, boul Décarie, #201
St. Laurent,Québec H4L 3L9
Telephone: (514) 747-0519
Facsimile: (514) 748-5596

Fédération des intervenantes en garderie (CEQ)
9405, rue Sherbrooke est
Montréal, Québec H1L 6P3
Telephone: (514) 356-6888
Facsimile: (514) 356-0202

Regroupement des agences de services de garde en milieu familial du Québec
55, avenue Dupras, Bureau 317
Lasalle, Québec H8R 4A8

ONTARIO

LEGISLATION

Ontario. Legislative Assembly. *The Day Nurseries Act.* Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990 (reprinted 1995).

Ontario. Legislative Assembly. *Ontario Regulation 262*, 1990.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Ron Bakker
Director
Child Care Branch
Ministry of Community and Social Services
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80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Telephone: (416) 327-4864
Facsimile: (416) 327-0570

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 5

Figure does not include the caregiver's own children.

Regulated child care

Day nurseries (child care centres, nursery schools)
Group care for less than 24 hours/day for 5 or more unrelated children under 12 years and under 18 years for children with a developmental handicap

Supervised private home day care (home child care)
Care for up to 5 children from 0-12 years in a private home that is supervised by a licensed agency. Not more than 2 of the children may be under 2 years, and not more than 3 of the children may be under 3 years, including the caregiver's own children under 6 years.

Other

Child care resource centres (also known as family resource programs)
Provide support services to parents and to regulated and unregulated caregivers in their caregiving role. The range of services can include: drop-in programs, resource lending libraries, playgroups, training opportunities, and educational workshops.

Child care resource centres are not regulated.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Ontario does not have a written policy regarding children with special needs but supports integration in theory.

The Day Nurseries Act authorizes segregated day nurseries to serve handicapped children 2-18 years and to integrate handicapped children age 2-10 years. In practice, there are few segregated programs remaining.

Integrated programs serving children with special needs are required to provide specialized programming and to employ one resource teacher for every 4 handicapped children. Resource teachers are required to have specialized training beyond the early childhood educator credential.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Ontario funds and licenses on-reserve child care. As of September 1994, there were 48 licensed child care centres on-reserve with a licensed capacity of 1,803. There were also 5 centres off-reserve serving aboriginal children with a licensed capacity of 160, and 4 private home day care agencies with 36 homes serving aboriginal children.

The Day Nurseries Act treats Indian Bands in a manner analogous to municipalities for the purpose of child care funding and administration. Expenses are cost-shared with the federal government through the 1965 Canada/Ontario Agreement Respecting Welfare Programs for Indians.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT[1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	439,851	0-2	262,157
3-5	458,643	3-5	276,775
6-12	1,024,079	6-12	710,770
Total 0-12	1,922,573	Total 0-12	1,249,702

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)[2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	13,610	1,160	190
5-14 yrs	22,300	3,275	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated)[3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	6321	5737	11315
Speech difficulty	9499	14656	5436
Developmental handicap	3400	7410	2285

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	220,000	64.2
3-5	152,000	67.6
6-15	406,000	78.3

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 18 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for the interpretation of the data.

2 - In Ontario, 30 reserve and settlement census subdivisions, with an estimated total population of 7,651, were either incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from these subdivisions are not included. Across Canada as a whole, approximately 36% of those who identified as North American Indian lived on reserves or settlements.

3 - Excludes reserves. The figures related to developmental handicap among children age 0-4 years and 10-14 years should be treated with caution. The standard deviation of the estimated developmental handicap figures is between 16.8% and 33.3%. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

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SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)

Centre-based (child enrolment)	128,955
Family day care	18,898
Total regulated spaces	147,853
Total regulated spaces (1996)	154,282

Children with special needs in regulated child care
Information not available

Children receiving subsidies
Information not available

Number of child care resource centres (1995) 185

This number represents programs funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services; the Ontario Association of Family Resource Programs estimates the total number of such programs in the province to be approximately 400.

Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces (1995)

Non-profit (includes municipally-operated)	103,373
For-profit	25,582

Sponsorship of family day care agencies and family day care spaces (1995)

	Agencies	Spaces
Non-profit	106	17,551
Municipal	19	Information not available
For-profit	13	521

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size: Not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-18 mos	1:3	10
18 mos-2" yrs	1:5	15
2"-5 yrs	1:8	16
5-6 yrs	1:12	24
6-10 yrs	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements
Centre supervisors must have a 2 year diploma in early childhood education from an approved College of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) or the equivalent, and at least 2 years' experience working in a day nursery with children who are of the same age and developmental level as the children in the day nursery where the supervisor is employed. A Ministry Director has the authority to waive the educational requirements for directors and other staff in a specific program.

One staff person with each group of children must have a 2 year early childhood education diploma (CAAT) or equivalent.

A resource teacher must hold a diploma in early childhood education or academic equivalent and have completed a post-secondary school program related to the needs of handicapped children. If working with multiply-handicapped children, the resource teacher must also have a current standard certificate in first-aid. There are no training or experience requirements for staff other than resource teachers who are working with children who have special needs.

Parent involvement
Each centre and private home day care agency must have a written statement regarding parent involvement. The type of parental involvement is not specified.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Ministry Program Advisors based in Area Offices license, monitor and enforce the *Day Nurseries Act* and its Regulations. The Program Advisors are not required to have training in early childhood education. The annual license renewal process includes

an inspection of the child care facility to ensure compliance with the regulatory standards. Unannounced drop-in visits are also conducted.

Non-compliance with the legislation which does not pose an immediate threat to the children's well-being may result in a provisional license with a time-frame in which the operator is required to correct the non-compliance. Repeated non-compliance of a serious nature or non-compliance which poses a likely danger to the children may result in the revocation of the license. However, the Director of Child Care must give notice of intent to close the centre to the operator who then has the right to appeal to the Child and Family Services Review Board. The legislation provides the authority for immediate closure in the situation of immediate danger to the children's well-being.

Regulated family day care

In Ontario, family day care has historically been referred to as "private home day care," and is referred to in this way in provincial legislation. Recently, the term "home child care" has been used by those in the sector and by the provincial government.

Regulation
The province licenses private home day care agencies which then enter into agreements with caregivers to provide child care, and provide supervision as specified in the regulations.

Maximum capacity
Care for up to 5 children from 0-12 years in a private home that is supervised by a licensed agency. Not more than 2 of the children may be under 2 years, and not more than 3 of the children may be under 3 years, including the caregiver's own children under 6 years.

Provider qualification requirements
There are no caregiver training qualifications specified in provincial regulations. Regulation requires caregivers to be older than 18 years, and, if working with handicapped children, to hold a standard first-aid certificate. Many agencies provide training for caregivers.

Caregivers are supervised by agency staff called home visitors. Home visitors are required to have completed a post-secondary program in child development or family studies, and to have at least 2 years experience working with children who are the same age and developmental levels and the children cared for by the agency where the person is employed.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
The family home visitor is required to conduct quarterly in-home supervisory visits. The Agency is responsible for ensuring that legislated requirements are met.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to non-profit and for-profit service providers on behalf of eligible parents. In Ontario, municipal and regional governments approved corporations [4] and Native Bands administer the fee subsidy program and contribute 20% of the cost of subsidization.

Eligibility is determined by a provincially determined parameters needs test with income being only one of a number of items considered. Each municipality can determine the rates within a situation which creates considerable variation across the province. There are no province-wide maximum income levels for full and partial fee subsidies.

The province does not set maximum subsidy levels per child. The maximum subsidy/child/day varies across the province due to actual cost of service, which varies by type and geographical region, and is at the discretion exercised by municipalities.

There is no provincial minimum user fee.

The provincial government permits subsidization up to the full cost of the program. However, in practice, municipalities set maximum subsidy rates.

Municipalities may allocate a specified number of subsidized spaces to particular programs or may allow them to float.

There is a province-wide cap on the total subsidy budget, rather than on the number of subsidized spaces available. Lengthy waiting lists of eligible parents exist in some communities. Some communities do not maintain waiting lists.

In 1995, fee subsidies for children with special needs were determined on the basis of 87% contribution by the provincial government and 13% contribution from another source such as parent fee or the local municipality (see Recent Developments). Integrated program cost-sharing is generally an 80/20 split on regular fee subsidy with 100% provincial expenditure for specialized supports and services. The province does not require that parents be needs or income tested for eligibility but some municipalities have imposed a needs test.

4 - A non-profit corporation which operates a child care program. It is intended to allow provision of subsidized child care in communities without municipal organization, or where the municipality does not provide subsidized child care. In practice it is used in other communities as well.

Average net income of families receiving child care subsidies in Metropolitan Toronto (net income 1995)	
1 parent, 1 child	$15,998
1 parent, 2 children	$17,087
2 parents, 1 child	$23,579
2 parents, 2 children	$26,993

Province-wide data on average incomes or eligibility levels are not available. Instead, Metropolitan Toronto data describing average incomes of families receiving subsidy are provided.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding

Limited capital funding may be available; see Recent Developments.

Conversion capital
Eliminated July 1995.

Recurring funding

Wage Subsidy Program
There were three components to the Wage Subsidy Program in 1995:

- Direct Operating Grant
- Wage Enhancement Grant
- Provider Enhancement Grant

Wage Subsidy was approximately $8000 per FTE in 1995. (see Recent Developments).

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$305,400,000
One-time funding	
Capital funding	34,800,000
Conversion capital	6,600,000
Recurring funding	
Direct operating grant	82,800,000
Wage enhancement grant	112,200,000
Other funding	
Total	$541,800,000

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 years (1994/95) $281.81
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Municipal cost-sharing (1994/95) $82,000,000
(in addition to provincial expenditures-estimate)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95) $169,900,000

Indian Welfare Services Program $8,100,000
(unaudited figure)

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs
Information not available
Family day care
Information not available

Fees (1995)

Centres
Information not available
Family day care
Information not available

ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is responsible for developing policy and legislation, coordinating planning, licensing programs, ensuring compliance with the regulations, and administering funding, including some subsidies.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is a decentralized ministry. Licensing and monitoring of programs is the responsibility of ten Area Offices. The Child Care Branch is responsible for policy and legislation development.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

The *Day Nurseries Act* enables Municipalities and Indian Bands to directly operate child care centres and private home day care agencies. Municipalities and Indian Bands also administer and pay 20% of the child care fee subsidy for eligible families in their jurisdiction. Within the *Day Nurseries Act*, they have some discretion over how their subsidy program works.

About 75 municipalities offered child care subsidies and contributed approximately $82 million to child care in 1994/95. In areas of the province where a municipality does not choose to participate in operating or funding fee subsidized child care, it is possible for a non-profit child care agency to form an approved corporation to deliver the program. In 1995, approved corporations received 80% of their funding directly from the provincial government.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Ministry Area Offices are responsible for the development and implementation of local community plans consistent with the *Ontario Child Care Management Framework* released in 1992. Area Offices have established their own Area Planning Guidelines to direct and support communities. Applications for new programs or amendments to existing programs are considered within the context of the Framework document and the Area Office guideline and priorities.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN ONTARIO

1881 Establishment of The Creche in Toronto (now Victoria Day Care Services).

1926 Establishment of the University of Toronto's Institute of Child Study and its laboratory school, St. George's Nursery, to train nursery school teachers.

1942 Ontario was one of two provinces to sign the Dominion-Provincial War Time Agreement with the federal government enabling 50% cost-sharing for nurseries for children whose mothers were employed in essential war industries. The Day Nurseries Branch was established to administer funding and support the development of new nurseries.

1945 Twenty-eight day nurseries in Ontario serviced 900 preschool children in 44 "school units" which served approximately 2,5000 children. At the end of the War, federal funding was withdrawn and the province threatened to close all centres.

1946 The Day Nursery and Day Care Parents' Association in Toronto successfully lobbied to keep the day nurseries open.

The *Day Nurseries Act* was passed, providing provincial funds to cover 50% of net operating costs of child care programs and a system of licensing and regular inspection for centres.

1950 The Nursery Education Association of Ontario (now the Association of Early Childhood Educators, Ontario) was established.

1966 The introduction of the federal *Canada Assistance Plan* resulted in the provision of fee subsidies in Ontario for low-income families.

1974 Ontario's first major policy statement on child care called it a welfare service for those in social/financial need.

The Day Care Reform Action Alliance successfully fought the "Birch Proposals", the provincial government's proposed reduction in staff/child ratios and other standards to reduce costs.

1980 The Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care (later Child Care) formed to advocate for public funding for universally accessible, high quality, non-profit child care.

1987 In *New Directions for Day Care*, Government policy promised a "comprehensive policy that recognizes child care as a basic public service, not a welfare service". A three year plan to provide additional funds to expand non-profit child care programs was announced.

1991 The provincial government made two announcements that reflected its intention to establish growth in the non-profit sector: a Wage Enhancement Grant for workers in non-profit care as a "down payment" on pay equity, and a strategy to encourage commercial programs to convert to non-profit status.

1992 The provincial government released *Child Care Reform in Ontario: Setting the Stage*, which stated 4 basic principles as the basis for child care reform: quality, affordability, accessibility, and sound management. The consultation paper promised dramatic reform of child care in Ontario with the goal of making high quality child care accessible to every family. New legislation was to be developed by the end of 1994.

The provincial government also released the *Ontario Child Care Management Framework*, establishing a context for the development of new programs and changes to existing programs.

School boards were granted eligibility to hold licenses to operate child care programs. As part of the JobsOntario Training Fund, 8,200 child care subsidies, fully funded by the province, were targeted to assist unemployed parents looking for work or participating in job training programs.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1994 Child Care Reform was not implemented. The report of The Royal Commission on Learning recommended introduction of early childhood education programs for all 3-4 and 5-year-olds.

In 1995 the provincial government announced a major pilot project, The Early Years Program, the first step toward a "seamless day" for 4- and 5-year-olds. School boards were asked to submit proposals for pilot status.

In June, the Harris (progressive conservative) government was elected. Their platform, The Common Sense Revolution, promised to change the directions in child care made during the 2 previous (Liberal and NDP) governments.

Before the end of 1995, the following changes were made:

- JobsOntario subsidies (fully funded by the province) reverted to 80%-20% provincial-municipal cost-sharing;
- the proxy fund for pay equity for staff in non-profit child care centres was capped;
- the program development fund (start-up and minor capital) was eliminated;
- major capital funding was cancelled;
- funding that supported inclusion of child care facilities in new school sites was cancelled;
- the conversion (to non-profit) program was cancelled;
- the early years program was cancelled;
- the policy limiting new subsidies to non-profit programs was reversed.

In 1996 the proxy mechanism that allowed child care staff to benefit from The *Pay Equity Act* was eliminated. A review of the care program was conducted by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Ministry produced *Improving Child Care in Ontario* in September, 1996. Its proposals included:

- reduction of Wage Subsidy for staff in non-profit centres and resource centres;
- introduction of minor capital (50/50 cost-shared), which included for-profit child care for the first time;
- less frequent monitoring;
- an increase in the preschool staff/child ratio;
- an increase in the number of school-aged children permitted in regulated family day care;
- a change in cost-sharing for special needs children;
- and introduction of user fees in resource centres.

In 1997 the provincial government announced that licensing would be devolved to municipal/regional governments, and began work to effect this.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care
500A Bloor Street West, 2nd floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Y8
Telephone: (416) 538-0628 Facsimile: (416) 538-6737

Association for Early Childhood Education Ontario
40 Orchard View Blvd., Suite 211
Toronto, Ontario M4R 2G1
Telephone: (416) 487-3157 Facsimile: (416) 487-3758

Home Child Care Association of Ontario c/o Network Child Care Services
756 Ossington Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6G 3T9
Telephone: (807) 684-2183 Facsimile: (416) 530-1924

Ontario Association for School Age Care
c/o George Brown College,
Nightingale Campus 2 Murry Street
P.O. Box 1015, Station B Toronto, Ontario M5T 2T9
Telephone: (416) 413-2310 Facsimile: (416) 413-2565

Ontario Association of Family Resource Programs 20913
Leslie Street R.R. #1
Queensville, Ontario L0G 1R0
Telephone: (905) 478-2422 Facsimile: (905) 478-1944

MANITOBA

LEGISLATION

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *The Community Child Day Care Standards Act*, 1983 as amended in 1986.

Manitoba. Legislative Assembly. *Manitoba Child Day Care Regulations, 23/87, 62/86,* and *148/83* as amended to Chapter C-158. 1986.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Kathy Reid, Acting Director
Manitoba Family Services
Child Day Care
102, 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1G1
Telephone: (204) 945-2668
Facsimile: (204) 948-2143

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 4

No more than 2 children may be under 2 years. Figure includes the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

Regulated child care

Day care centres
Full-day group care for at least 5 children under 6 years, or no more than 3 children under 2 years, for more than 4 continuous hours/day, 3 or more days/week.

Nursery schools
Part-time programs enrolling more than 3 infants or more than 5 preschoolers of whom no more than 3 are infants, 4 or less continuous hours/day, less than 3 days/week.

School-age child care centres
Care outside school hours for more than 8 children 6-12 years. These may include children attending kindergarten. Can be exempted from regulation by Child Day Care.

Family day care homes
Care in a private home for a maximum of 8 children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12 years). Not more than 5 children may be under 6 years, and not more than 3 children may be under 2 years.

Group family day care homes
Care in a private home by 2 caregivers for a maximum of 12 children (including the providers' own children under 12 years). Not more than 3 of the children may be under 2 years.

Occasional day care centres
Care on a casual basis (maximum of 8 hours/week) for more than 3 infants, or more than 5 preschoolers of whom not more than 3 are infants, or more than 8 children of whom not more than 5 are preschoolers and not more than 3 are infants.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Manitoba has no written policy on children with special needs. Funding for children with disabilities in provincially-funded programs, including nursery schools, is provided through the Children with Disabilities program. Children with special needs are integrated into many child care centres, but most do not receive additional funding. There is now a ceiling on provincial funding for special needs grants. The Society for Manitobans with Disabilities operates a segregated preschool program with 40 spaces. This receives government funding through the Department of Family Services. There is no special training required for staff working with children with disabilities.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Manitoba does not license or fund child care programs on-reserve. There are 27 child care centres which serve aboriginal children off-reserve. Nine child care centres provide culturally-based aboriginal child care. The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 1,042 additional spaces by 1998. A First Nations ECE training program has been developed in Opaskawayak-Keewatin Community College. A certificate program in Aboriginal child care is offered through Red River Community College.

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PROVINCIAL CONTEXT[1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	44,985	0-2	24,837
3-5	46,939	3-5	30,105
6-12	106,311	6-12	75,944
Total 0-12	198,235	Total 0-12	130,886

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)[2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	10,460	4,135	nil
5-14 yrs	15,715	7,620	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated)[3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	685	480	687
Speech difficulty	1458	1618	830
Developmental handicap	480	700	780

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	23,000	61.9
3-5	18,000	72.9
6-15	52,000	82.0

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 17 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for interpretation of data

2 - In Manitoba, 7 census subdivisions on reserves and settlements, with an estimated total population of 2,008, were either incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from these subdivisions are not included.

3 - Excludes reserves. The figures related to developmental handicap should be used with caution. The standard deviation of the estimated developmental handicap figures is between 16.8% and 33.3%. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting. For example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)

Centre-based	Full-time	Part-time
Infants	851	34
Preschool	7,431	4,164
School-age	—	3,255
Family day care		**3,111**
Total regulated spaces		18,846
Total regulated spaces (1996)		19,286
Children with special needs in regulated child care (94/95)		625
Children receiving subsidies (estimate, 1994)		8,200

Sponsorship of full-time regulated centre spaces (1995)

Non-profit	7,271
For-profit	1,011

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size	50 spaces
Maximum room size	Two groups of children

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
Mixed age groups		
12 wks-2 yrs	1:4	8
2-6 yrs	1:8	16
6-12 yrs	1:15	30
Separate age groups		
12 wks -2 yrs	1:3	6
1-2 yrs	1:4	8
2-3 yrs	1:6	12
3-4 yrs	1:8	16
4-5 yrs	1:9	18
5-6 yrs	1:10	20
6-12 yrs	1:15	30
Nursery School		
12 wks -2 yrs	1:4	8
2-6 yrs	1:10	20

Group sizes and staff:child ratios for occasional day care centres are consistent with full-day preschool and school-age day care centres.

Staff qualification requirements

Manitoba has the following 3 qualification levels:

CCW III: An approved CCW II program and a recognized certificate program; or an approved degree program from a recognized university.

CCW II: Child Day Care Competency-based Assessment (CBA) Program; or an approved diploma in child care services from a recognized community college.

CCW I: Complete secondary education (grade 12 or equivalent); or any certificate, diploma or graduate/post-graduate degree unrelated to child care; or one post-secondary level accredited course in child care.

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All staff must be 18 years of age and have first-aid training. Two-thirds of a full-time centre's preschool staff must be Child Care Workers (CCW) II or III. One-half of staff employed in school-age centres and nursery schools must have completed early childhood education training. Supervisors are required to be qualified as a Child Care Worker III and to have one year's experience.

Parent involvement
All licensed non-profit centres are required to have boards of directors where parents constitute a minimum of 20% of the board members. Commercial programs are required to have parent advisory committees.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Twenty-two provincial Day Care Centre Coordinators conduct a minimum of four inspections of each centre each year. Health, fire and building inspections are carried out by separate personnel for day care centres.

Provisional licenses may be issued if the facility does not meet all of the requirements of the regulations, if the facility is not hazardous to the health, safety and well-being of the children, or if time is required to bring the centre into compliance.

A licensing order may be issued when a severe violation of the *Act* or *Regulations* occurs. The order requires immediate correction of the areas listed, and is posted in the centre. Failure to comply may result in suspension or revocation of the license.

A license may be revoked if there is continued noncompliance with licensing requirements and the facility is deemed hazardous to the health, safety and well-being of the children.

Regulated family day care

Regulation
Individually licensed

Maximum capacity
Family day care homes (one caregiver)
Eight children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12 years). No more than 5 children may be under 6 years, and not more than 3 children may be under 2 years.

Group day care homes (two caregivers)
Twelve children under 12 years (including the provider's own children under 12 years). No more than 3 children may be under 2 years.

Provider qualification requirements
There are no training requirements for regulated family day care providers. Providers must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid first-aid certificate. Family day care providers are assessed by Child Day Care for their suitability to provide care based on recognized family day care standards.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Licensed family day care and group family day care providers must comply with specific standards of operation in the *Child Day Care Regulation* including administration, daily program, behaviour management, furnishing and equipment, health, nutrition and emergency procedures requirements.

When an individual applies for a license, provincial Day Care Centre Coordinators complete safety inspection reports of the applicant's home. Personal references and written authorization to access information about any criminal record of individuals residing in the family day care home must be provided by the license applicant.

Three drop-in visits per year and one scheduled relicensing visit per year are conducted.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

Eligibility for fee subsidies is determined by an income test.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$13,787	$24,369
2 parents, 2 children	18,895	40,059

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

There is a minimum user fee of $2.40/day. There is a maximum subsidy of $4,160/child/year for full-day preschool children. Centres and family day care homes can surcharge subsidized parents higher than the maxi -mum subsidy rate up to $2.40/day/child. Both nonprofit and for-profit centres may enrol children receiving subsidies.

In April 1993, subsidies were capped. The number of subsidies has been reduced to 8,600 through attrition. Each licensed facility was allocated a maximum number of spaces in which children receiving susidies

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could be enroled. Subsidies are not available to centres that opened after 1992. Child care centres receiving provincial operating grants are required to enrol children receiving subsidies according to demand within the parameters of the subsidy program.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

Under Manitoba's legislation, for-profit programs opened after 1992 are not eligible to receive funding. However, for-profit child care centres licensed prior to April 18, 1991 may receive a guaranteed daily fee from the provincial government on behalf of children receiving subsidies up to 25% of their licensed spaces. Criteria used to determine which for-profit centres receive this funding include the availability of other services in the area, the demographics of the community, the geographic location of the program, the projected viability of the service, and the availability of government funds.

Centres opened after 1992 do not receive operating grants.

Maximum annual operating grants per licensed space:

	Infants	Preschool	School-age
Fully-funded day care centres	$1,768	$1,196	$780
Partially-funded day care centres	885	600	390
Fully-funded day care homes	572	195	195
Partially-funded day care homes and group day care homes	285	195	195

Fully funded nursery schools that operate from one to 5 sessions per week are eligible for $83/space/year; fully funded nursery schools that operate from 6 to 10 sessions per week are eligible for $166/space/year.

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$29,454,400
Capital grant	
One-time funding	170,000
Recurring funding	
Operating grants	12,224,400
Special needs grants	2,830,000
Other funding (Transportation, communications, supplies and services, capital and other operating costs)	525,000
Total	$45,203,800

51

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995)

$228.03

(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1993/94)

$17,400,000

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

Information not available

Family day care

Infant	$325/child/month
Preschool	274/child/month
School-age	179/child/month

plus $2.40/day/child or $48.00/child every 4 weeks

Fees (1995, average monthly)

The provincial government sets maximum fees for all children (subsidized or full-fee) in funded centre-based and family day care programs

Maximum daily fees

	Centres	Family day care
Infants	$25	$17
Preschool	16	13
School-age	9	9

Average monthly fees

	Centres	Family day care
Infants	$501	$352
Preschool	320	274
School-age	191	191

ADMINISTRATION

The Child Day Care Branch, Department of Family Services, is responsible for licensing group and family child care under the Act, and providing fee subsidies and operating funding to eligible centres and homes. The office in Winnipeg is the central directorate for the provincial system which is responsible for policy and standards development. There are 9 regional offices which are responsible for monitoring and licensing programs.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no provincial plan for the development of child care.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN MANITOBA

1901 Day Nursery Centre established in Winnipeg by the Mothers' Association.

1971 Red River Community College initiated a 2 year Child Care Services diploma program.

1974 Provincial Child Day Care Program was established in the Department of Health and Social Development. It provided start-up and operating grants to non-profit centres and family day care homes and subsidies for eligible low-income families.

Manitoba Child Care Association was formed to represent child care workers, boards of directors, parents and child care advocates.

1982 ***The Community Child Day Care Standards Act,*** **including provision for uniform licencing standards, staff qualifications and criteria for governance and board accountability, was passed.**

1986 Government introduced salary enhancement grants to eligible non-profit centres.

1988 Appointment of Child Care Task Force

1989 Task Force Report made recommendations for improvement in child care

One-day strike of child care workers protesting inadequate salaries.

1991 Government restructured funding. It consolidated grants into one operating grant. This had the effect of reducing salary enhancement, redistributing nursery school grants, increasing eligibility level for partial subsidy and providing a daily payment to existing commercial centres on behalf of subsidized children in up to 25% of spaces. Parent fees increased by 18%.

1992 Licensing of new child care spaces was temporary frozen, then allowed to resume after several months.

The report of the Working Group on Francophone Day Care was published. It provided recommendations regarding content, implementation guidelines, and resource requirements for francophone day care services.

1993 The total number of subsidies was capped at 9,600. The licensing of new day care spaces was frozen for a period of time; an Acknowledgement Form was introduced and became a requirement of licensing for those facilities willing to operating without grants or subsidies. Parents who receive subsidy were required to pay an additional $1.40 per day per child. The "seeking employment" provision of subsidy was reduced from eight weeks to two weeks.

Operating grants to child care centres were reduced by 4% and to nursery schools by 50%. Annual operating grants to the Manitoba Child Care Association and the Family Day Care Association were eliminated.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Since 1994, as a condition of licensing, new child care centres are required to sign an acknowledgement that they will not expect any government funds. A government fact-finding mission held province-wide public consultations about changes to the child care system. As a result, a Regulation Review Committee has been established.

In 1996 the regulations are under review. Under consideration are a longer licensing period, changes to school-age child care, training requirements, ratios, the income test, and funding mechanisms. A Children and Youth Secretariat is exploring integration of children's services.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Manitoba Child Care Association
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Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 4X3
Telephone: (204) 586-8587
Facsimile: (204) 589-5613

Family Day Care Association of Manitoba
203-942 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 3R5
Telephone: (204) 254-5437
Facsimile: (204) 257-3521

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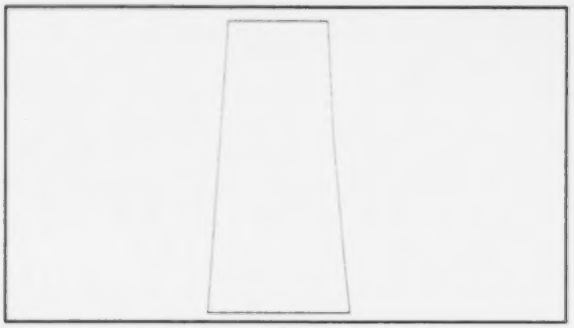
SASKATCHEWAN



LEGISLATION

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Act. Bill 8*, 1990.

Saskatchewan. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Regulations*. 1990.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Deborah Bryck, Director
Child Day Care Division
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3V6
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CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted	8

Figure includes the caregiver's own children under 13 years.

Regulated child care

Child day care centres
Child day care centres provide care to children in group settings. Centres must have a license from the Child Day Care Division and may care for up to 90 children from 6 weeks to and including 12 years. Child day care centres include non-profit services (day care centres) governed by a parent Board of Directors and for-profit services (child care centres), with Parent Advisory Committees.

Part-time centre-based programs are not licensed.

School-age child care
School-age child care is care outside of school hours for children up to and including 12 years of age in a mixed-age centre, family child care home or in a program solely for school-age children.

Family child care homes
Family child care homes are operated by individuals in their principal place of residence. Whether licensed or not, a person providing services may care for up to 8 children depending on the children's ages (5 children younger than 6 years: of these 5, only 2 may be younger than 30 months).

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is no written policy regarding child care for children with special needs but the provincial bias is towards integration. There are no segregated child care programs. Integration of up to 15% (25% with special approval) of children with special needs is permitted in a child day care centre. The child care program is required to provide appropriate equipment and furnishings and plan for each child's individual needs. Funding may be available to support these additional costs. Staff working with special needs children are required to have additional training.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Saskatchewan does not license child care programs on-reserve. Native organizations operate 3 licensed child care services for native children off-reserve.

In Meadow Lake, 5 family day care homes have been established through the tribal council child care agency.

The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 871 additional spaces by 1998.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT [1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	40,059	0-2	24,750
3-5	44,529	3-5	29,766
6-12	107,127	6-12	79,583
Total 0-12	191,715	Total 0-12	134,099

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991) [2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	9,835	4,355	nil
5-14 yrs	16,375	6,970	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated) [3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	1033	858	812
Speech difficulty	823	1441	762
Developmental handicap	375	455	460

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	20,000	61.0
3-5	18,000	74.0
6-15	50,000	81.6

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
18 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Adoption leave
18 weeks leave. Available to primary caregiver only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 12 weeks leave.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for interpretation of the data.

2 - In Saskatchewan, 9 census subdivisions on native reserves or settlements, with an estimated total population of 1,230, were either incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. The data from these subdivisions are not included.

3 - Excludes reserves. The figure related to developmental handicap in children 0-4 years should be treated with caution. The standard deviation of the estimated developmental handicap figure is between 16.8% and 33.3%. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)

Centre-based

Infants	235
Toddlers	709
Preschool	2,783
School-age	926
Family day care	2,613
Total regulated spaces	7,266
Total regulated spaces (1996)	7,548
Children with special needs in regulated child care (03/95)	216
Children receiving subsidies (03/95)	3,683

Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (1995)

Non-profit	4,530
Municipal	26
For-profit	97

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size 90 spaces

A centre with more than 6 infant spaces may only enrol infants and then, only up to a maximum of 12.

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
Infants	1:3	6
Toddlers	1:5	10
Preschool (30 mos-6 yrs)	1:10	20
School-age (6-12 yrs)	1:15	30

Staff qualification requirements
Centre supervisor must have a one year certificate in child care or equivalent.

Every staff member must take a 130 hour child care orientation course or equivalent, provided through regional community colleges, unless the person has a one year certificate in child care or equivalent.

One staff member in each centre must have completed a first-aid course.

Staff working with children who have special needs must have additional training.

Parent involvement
Day care centres are administered by parent boards. In these programs, 51% of the board members must be parents who are using the program. Child care centres are required to have parent advisory committees.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Thirteen provincial program consultants develop, license, monitor and consult with both centres and family child care homes and conduct two visits annually. Provincial program consultants are not required to have a background in early childhood education.

If a program is in non-compliance with the standards, the health or safety of the children, the centre may be given a conditional license with a time frame for compliance or may be given a provisional license for up to 6 months. If a non-compliance is not addressed within the time frame or the 6 month provisional period, or if it may impact on the health or safety of the children, the legislation gives the program consultant the authority to close the program. There is no appeal board or formal appeal mechanism, but the program can appeal directly to the Minister.

Regulated family day care

Regulation
Individually licensed.

Maximum capacity
Up to 8 children (including the provider's own children under 13 years) between 6 weeks and 12 years. Of the 8 children, only 5 may be younger than 6 years; of these 5, only 2 may be younger than 30 months.

Provider qualification requirements
Must be 18 years, and required to take an orientation course and first-aid training.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Program consultants conduct annual visits to renew licenses in addition to periodic drop-in visits throughout the year.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

There is a two-step eligibility process. To be eligible for consideration, parents must be employed or seeking employment, attending school or a training program, receiving medical treatment, or have a child with special needs. If the parent meets one of these criteria, an income test is applied.

The number of subsidies is not capped, but the total funds available for subsidies is limited.

Subsidies are available only to non-profit child day care centres or regulated family child care homes. There is no limit on the number of subsidized spaces in a given program. The average cost to a subsidized parent above the subsidy (surcharge) is 25-30% of the fee.

Minimum user fee is 10% of the actual cost of care. Centres and regulated family child care homes may surcharge subsidized parents above the 10% minimum.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (gross income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$19,668	$31,920
1 parents, 2 children	20,868	45,720

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Saskatchewan uses gross income level to determine eligibility while other provinces use net income.

Maximum subsidy/child/month (1995)

	Regulated centre	Regulated family child care homes
Infants	$285	$265
Toddlers	245	265
Preschool	235	235
School-age	235	235

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding

Start-up grants

Type of program	Amount
Centres	$ 600/space
Family child care homes	200/home
Family child care homes (north)	300/home
School-age	360/space
Special needs equipment grants	50/month/child/yr

Recurring funding

Operating grants

Age	Amount
Infants	$40/space/month
Toddler	30/space/month
Preschool	35/space/month
School-age	20/space/month
Teen infant centre grants	$425infant space/month 350toddler space/month
Wage grant (1996)	$75staff person/month

Equipment grants

Family child care homes	$50/space/year
Northern centres	$100/space/year

Special needs funding

Special needs supervision grants are funds to assist centres and homes with costs associated with caring for a child with special needs.

Type of program	Amount
Level I	$200/month
Level II	250/month
Level III	300/month

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$9,672,820
One-time funding	
Start-up grant	110,200
Special needs equipment grant	Information not available
Recurring funding	
Centre operating grant	1,423,263
Family child care home equipment grant	98,000
Northern equipment grant	24,000
Northern transportation grant	8,000
Child development grant	362,000
Teen/infant centre grant	600,000
Preschool support programs	402,000
Other funding	13,627
Total	$12,713,910

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Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995) $66.31
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures $5,900,000
(estimate based on 1993/94 CAP recovery percentages against 1994/95 expenditures)

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs	
Teachers	$ 8.24
Assistant directors	11.66
Directors	14.06

Family day care

Between $250 and $370/month/child

Fees (1995, average monthly)

	Child care centres	Family day care
Infants	$431	$370
Toddler	360	360
Preschool	358	340
School-age	270	279

ADMINISTRATION

The Child Day Care Division in the Department of Social Services administers the legislation and is responsible for initiating new child care services, providing consultation, and developing standards and training. Monitoring, licensing, and consultation are provided regionally through 2 regional offices and 5 sub-offices.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

Saskatchewan legislation provides for child care centres administered by municipalities. As of 1995, one centre has been licensed under this provision.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

A government-appointed Child Care Advisory Board advises on child care issues and may assist in the establishment of long-time program directions. There is no formal written government statement of principles for child care nor a provisional plan.

Currently, new non-profit or commercial centres and family child care homes apply to the province for a license to operate. If the regulations are met, a licence is granted. Subsidies and grants are subject to approval and availability.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN

1960s Several child care centres were established in major cities. There were 13 in Regina by the decade's end.

1970 The first child care regulations were established by Order-in-Council under *The Child Welfare Act*. These regulations introduced government funding including monthly operating grants, start-up grants and fee subsidies for low-income and social assistance families.

1975 New child care regulations were passed under the authority of *The Family Services Act* describing eligibility, the process of licensing, standards of operation and available grants and subsidies. Family day care homes and child day care centres which were incorporated, non-profit and parent controlled could be licenced and were eligible for funding.

1980 An interdepartmental government report, *The Day Care Review*, identified affordability, availability, and quality as key issues.

Action Child Care, an advocacy group based in Saskatoon, was established.

1980s Very little expansion in services or funding. Growth of unlicensed centres.

1990 The *Child Care Act and Regulations* were proclaimed requiring licencing of all centres and establishing increased training requirements of 130 hours.

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1992 The Minister of Social Services appointed a Child Care Advisory Board to advise on current child care issues and to assist in the establishment of long-time program directions. There are 8 community participants representing provincial and national child care organizations.

The province introduced a tuition subsidy of 1/3 of the cost of the 130 hour required orientation course for child care staff.

A review of child care in Saskatchewan was completed resulting in the report *Breaking New Ground in Child Care*, which provides a framework for child care reform in Saskatchewan. The review identified these guiding principles for child care:
1) parents should be free to choose their preferred child care (licenced or unlicenced);
2) affordability should not be a barrier to choice, and;
3) child care should be community-based and provider responsive programming.

1993 Grants were introduced to encourage initiation of work-related child care centre. They will cover 50% of development and capital costs up to a total of $10,000.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1995, there were a number of initiatives in response to the principles for reform identified in the Child Care Review. An education campaign was introduced to assist parents in selecting and monitoring child care arrangements. Child Care Resource Centres were established throughout the province. Parent-subsidies for infants and toddlers were increased and new child development grant rates were established. Funds were also made available for the development of pilot projects in rural and northern Saskatchewan.

In 1995 parental subsidies by age group were introduced.

In 1996 a child care wage enhancement was announced for 1996/97 as part of Saskatchewan's action plan for children. The $75 a month will go to staff with the minimum training, and will be based on required staff/child ratios.

The Child Care Review identified a need for flexible options for licensed child care for rural Saskatchewan. In order to meet this need, extended home child care services, each accommodating a maximum of 12 child care spaces, are being developed in the rural communities.

In 1997 capital grants for renovations were announced.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Saskatchewan Child Care Association
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Saskatoon SK S7H 0G9
Telephone: (306) 664-4408
Facsimile: (306) 664-7122

ALBERTA

LEGISLATION

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *Social Care Facilities Licensing Act. Chapter S-14*, 1980. As amended, 1994.

Alberta. Legislative Assembly. *Alberta Day Care Regulation 333/90* as amended to Chapter S-14, 1980.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

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Facsimile: (403) 427-1258

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 6

A maximum of 3 children may be under the age of 2 years. Figure includes the caregiver's own children under 12 years.

Out-of-school child care programs
Programs for children 6-12 years outside school hours. The province licenses out-of-school programs but there are no provincial standards or funds for these programs. To receive a license, programs must obtain fire, zoning, building and health approvals. Municipalities may choose to become involved in the provision of out-of-school care by contracting with an agency for service delivery or by developing standards and monitoring programs. Where there is no municipal involvement, out-of-school programs are inspected only at licensing.

Regulated child care

Day care centres
Seven or more children under 7 years in a group setting for more than 3 but less than 24 hours/day.

Nursery schools
Part-time programs (maximum 3 hours/day) for 7 or more children 3-7 years. These include parent-cooperative nursery school programs as well as kindergartens not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education.

Approved family day homes
Care in a private home for up to 6 children under 12 years with a maximum of 3 children under 3 years, with no more than 2 children under 2 years (including the providers' own children under 12 years). Providers are under contract with a for-profit or non-profit family day home agency which can operate independently or as part of a day care centre. The agencies are not licensed, but are contracted by the provincial government to administer and monitor approved family day care homes.

Licensed drop-in centres
Programs for children 0-7 years which are permitted to operate with lower staff:child ratios than are day care centres. No child may attend for more than 40 hours/month.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There is no written policy for children with special needs.

The Integrated Day Care Program in Alberta provides assistance for children with special needs so they can participate in mainstream day care centres or approved family day homes. Funding varies depending on the special needs of the child and the type of service required. Funds are paid to contracted operators on behalf of eligible children.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

Alberta funds and licenses on-reserve child care. In 1991, Alberta and the federal government agreed to cost-share child care programs on-reserve. Alberta would provide licensing support and administer child care fee subsidies and the federal government would provide funding under the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. In 1995, there were 18 on-reserve child care centres (9 licensed), with a total of 721 spaces. The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 127 additional spaces by 1998.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT [1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	116,518	0-2	71,838
3-5	124,515	3-5	82,343
6-12	289,243	6-12	211,372
Total 0-12	530,276	Total 0-12	365,553

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991) [2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	9,555	6,440	375
5-14 yrs	17,135	9,260	340

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated) [3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	2431	2605	4097
Speech difficulty	3219	5766	2080
Developmental handicap	1685	2230	1325

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate (%)
0-2	62,000	62.4
3-5	47,000	73.5
6-15	140,000	82.4

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
18 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
None.

Adoption leave
Either the mother or the father is entitled to 8 weeks leave.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for the interpretation of the data.

2 - In Alberta, 8 reserve census subdivisions with an estimated total population of 3,234, were either incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from these subdivisions are not included. Across Canada as a whole, 36% of those who identified as North American Indian lived on reserves or settlements. Statistics Canada (Catalogue 94-327, 1993) suggests that the figures on the Inuit population in Alberta be used with caution since the standard deviation between the estimated figures is 16.6% and 33.3%.

3 - Excludes reserves. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

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SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)

Centre-based

Infants	16,394
Preschool	26,868
Family day care	7,826
Total regulated spaces	51,088
Total regulated spaces (1996)	49,637
School-age child care (may be under Municipal Authority)	49,637
Children with special needs in regulated child care (94/95 average, monthly)	400
Children receiving subsidies (94/95)	13,159

Sponsorship of full-time regulated centre spaces (1995)

Non-profit	16,261
For-profit	27,001

In Alberta, all spaces are licensed as full-time.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size 80 spaces

Maximum staff/child rations and group sizes

Day care and drop-in centres

Age	Day care cntr.	Max. group size	Drop -in cntr.	Max. group size
0-12 mos	1:3	6	1:5	10
13-18 mos	1:4	8	1:5	10
19-35 mos	1:6	12	1:8	16
3-5 yrs	1:8	16	1:12	24
5-6 yrs	1:10	20	1:15	30

Nursery Schools

Age	Nursery School
5-6 yrs	1:10

There are no maximum group sizes for nursery schools.

Staff qualification requirements
Program directors are required to have training equivalent to a 2 year public college diploma in early childhood education.

One in 4 staff in each centre is required to have training equivalent to a one year public college early childhood education certificate.

All other child care staff are required to have a 50 hour orientation course or equivalent course work.

Parent involvement
Not specified

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Annual licensing inspections and one other visit are conducted by 28 provincial licensing officers and day care specialists. Licensing officers and day care specialists are not required to have a background in early childhood education. The *Day Care Licensing Policy Manual* (1993) provides interpretation of the legislation.

If a centre is in non-compliance with the regulations, a series of actions may occur, starting with a formal written order directing the centre to comply within a specific time frame, up to cancellation of the license, or refusal to renew the license. Operating allowances may be witheld pending compliance.

There is a formal Appeal Board set up by the Minister to hear appeals if a license is cancelled or refused. The legislation allows the decision of the Appeal Panel to be appealed at the Court of Queen's Bench. Its decision is binding.

Regulated family day care

Regulation
Family day care homes are not licensed. The government enters into contracts with family day care home agencies to approve and monitor providers according to provincial standards. Agencies contract with individual care providers.

Maximum capacity
Up to 6 children under 11 years (including the provider's own children under 11 years) with a maximum of 3 children under 3 years, and no more than 2 children under 2 years.

Provider qualification requirements
No formal training requirements

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Agency staff visit family day care homes once a month to ensure that providers are operating according to provincial standards. Provincial staff may also conduct sample spot checks of agencies and homes.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents.

There is a two-step eligibility process. Parents must first demonstrate need for subsidized child care, e.g., employed, enroled in a training program, parent has a special need, or child has a special need. An income test is then applied.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$18,710	$25,765
2 parents, 2 children	22,780	37,970

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases. There is no cap on the number of subsidies.

Maximum subsidy/child/month (1995)

Infants in day care centres	$370
Other ages in day care centres and children in family day care homes	$300

There is a minimum user fee of $40/month/family. Child care centres and family day care home providers may surcharge parents above the minimum $40.

Children receiving subsidies may enrol in non-profit or for-profit licenced child care centres and approved family day care homes.

Subsidies are not available in drop-in centres or nursery schools.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding
None

Recurring funding
Centre-based operating grants
Centre-based operating grants are available to all licensed non-profit and for-profit full-day centres. Operating grants have been decreasing since 1992, and are expected to continue decreasing.

Age	Funding per child/month
0-12 mos	$165
13-18 mos	125
19-35 mos	85
3-4 yrs	65
4 yrs	53

Family day home agency administration fee
A monthly administrative fee is paid to approved family day home agencies which contract with the Ministry to recruit, train and supervise individual day home providers, collect fees and pay providers. Both non-profit and for-profit programs are eligible for this funding program.

0-35 mos - 1st 10 children	$ 95
- next 10 children enroled	71
3- 6 yrs - 1st 10 children enroled	65
- next 10 children enroled	51

Special needs (integrated day care) funding
Funding is provided to assist in the integration of children with special needs. Funding may be used for specialized resource staff or for consultation and training services. There is no upper limit on the grant to an individual program. Both non-profit and for-profit programs are eligible to apply for special needs funding.

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$39,848,000
One-time funding	None
Recurring funding	
Operating grants	19,222,000
Family day home agency admin. fee	6,787,000
Other funding	
Special needs funding	1,766,000
Total	$67,623,000
Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995) (estimate based on total provincial expenditures)	$127.52
Federal funding: Entitlements on provincial child care expenditures (1994/95)	$15,500,000

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Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

Information not available

Family day care rates

Information not available

Fees (1995, average monthly)

Centres	
Infant	$430
Toddler	385
Preschool	375
School-age	Information not available

Family day care

Information not available

ADMINISTRATION

The Day Care Programs area of the Department of Family and Social Services currently administers the legislation, regulations and policies for child care through 6 regional offices. Each region is responsible for the delivery, consultation and licensing functions within its own area. The Edmonton-based central office is responsible for program and policy development, monitoring the system as a whole, and the staff qualification and certification program. Alberta is moving towards 17 regional boards for delivery of social services. This restructuring process will be completed in 1997.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

Until 1980, municipalities paid 20% of the cost of subsidized care. In 1980, the province took over full funding of subsidies as well as the administration of child care for children up to 6 years.

If a municipal government chooses to become involved in school-age programs, they may be provided as contracted services and up to 20% of the cost may be contributed by municipal governments. The provincial government allocates some funding to municipalities to be used for out-of-school (school-age) subsidies under the Family and Community Support Services Program.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no provincial plan for the development of child care.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN ALBERTA

1942 Alberta signed the *Dominion-Provincial Agreement* with the federal government but did not establish child care centres. The need for child care was refuted by an advisory committee.

1966 Community Day Nursery, the first centre to receive public funds, was opened in Edmonton.

The Preventive Social Services Act delegated decision-making authority for child care to municipalities and introduced 80/20 cost-sharing arrangements with participating municipalities. Public and non-profit centres were able to receive subsidies for eligible low-income families.

1971 The Alberta Association for Young Children was established.

1978 *The Social Care Facilities Licensing Act* included the first legislated child care regulations and changed funding from supporting child care program grants to fee subsidies for low income families.

1980 The provincial government took over the municipal share of funding of subsidies and administration of care services for children up to 6 years.

Operating allowances (operating grants to non-profit and for-profitl child care centres) were introduced.

1981 Standards were established for family day homes.

A policy was developed and special funding authorized for an Integrated Day Care Service (integration of children with special needs into mainstream programs).

1990 Alberta's first staff qualification requirements were introduced.

Focus on Children, a report of the Office of the Commission of Services for Children, calls for more local control of children's services. An announcement was made that operating grants would be phased out within the year.

1992 Policy recommendations for child care centres were developed by the Parent Advisory Working Committee and some were adopted by the provincial government.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1994 a 3 year Budget Plan effectively suspended the continued implemention of 1990 funding reforms. The goal of the 3 year budget plan was to reduce provincial child care expenditure by $14 million or 20% over 3 years.

A report by the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman identified inadequacies in the regulatory system in Alberta. It recommended improving procedures for complaint investigation, compliance management, and investigating serious occurances.

In 1996 new regulation changes permit 6 rather than 3 children in unregulated care. Operating grants have been reduced several times since the 1990 announcement that they would be abolished.

As a result of a review of children's services, the province will turn responsibility for these services over to 17 regional authorities by 1997. The authorities will oversee planning and development and administration of children's services, including child care.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Alberta Association for Young Children
7340 - 78th Street, Avonmore School, Room 31
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 2N1
Telephone: (403) 465-1571
Facsimile: (403) 465-1571

E.C.D. College Coordinators - Alberta Colleges
Lakeland College, Vermillion Campus
Vermillion, Alberta T0B 4M0
Telephone: (403) 853-8530
Facsimile: (403) 853-7355

Early Childhood Professional Association of Alberta
P.O. Box 3631
Spruce Grove, Alberta T7X 3A9
Telephone: (403) 986-6677
Facsimile: (403) 986-4344

Alberta Association for Family Day Home Services
11411 - 54 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 0V8
Telephone: (403) 435-5771
Facsimile: (403) 437-0185

United Alliance of Family and Children's Services
620, 615 Macleod Trail S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2G 4T8
Telephone: (403) 4656
Facsimile: (403) 264-5657

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

LEGISLATION

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *Community Care Facility Act, Chapter 57*, 1988.

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *British Columbia Child Care Regulation 319/89* as amended to *O.C. 147/6/89.*

British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. *British Columbia, Benefits (Child Care) Act. 1997.*

PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

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Child Care Branch
Ministry for Children and Families
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CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted 2

Children related by blood or marriage to the caregiver are not included in this definition. In British Columbia, this category is often referred to as "license not required"or LNR.

Regulated child care

Group day care centres
Group care for no more than 13 hours/day up to 5 days/week for children 30 months to 5 years of age.

Preschools (formerly licensed as nursery schools)
Group care for no more than 4 hours/day for no more than 20 children 30 months to 6 years of age.

Out-of-school care
Care outside school hours, including school vacations, for children 5-12 years of age for not more than 13 hours/day. Out-of-school care may be provided in family child care homes or group day care centres.

Family child care
Care in a private home for no more than 7 children. Of these there can be no more than 5 preschool age children, 3 children under 3 years of age and one child under one year of age. Children 12 years or older who are related by blood or marriage to the caregiver are not included in this definition.

Emergency care
Care for no more than 72 hours/month. Groups may be no larger than 12 for children under 3 years and no larger than 25 for older children

Child minding
Care for up to 3 hours/day, no more than 2 days/week for children 18 months to 12 years. There may be a maximum of 16 children where any child is under 3 years and a maximum of 20 children if all are 3 years or older.

Ski hill or resort care
Occasional child care is provided in resort locations to children who are at least 18 months and under 6 years old, for no more than 40 hours/month, and no more than 8 hours/day.

The Medical Health Officer may authorize a license to extend the maximum number of hours of care provided for as long as there is no health or safety risk to children.

Other

Child Care Support Programs provide information, support, and training to child care providers with an emphasis on family day care. They may include equipment and toy lending, workshops, networking, home visits, and caregiver registries.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Historically, B.C. had both segregated and integrated child care programs for children with special needs. In September 1993 the Special Needs Day Care Review Board released their report, *Supported Child Care*. The report proposed to work towards a more inclusive approach. The Supported Child Care initiative is funded through a federal-provincial strategic initiatives agreement of $8 million over four years.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

B.C. funds and licenses on-reserve child care. There are 14 licensed child care centres on reserves currently receiving a total of 58 grants from the province.

Child care centres run by Band and Tribal Councils became eligible to apply for provincial grants as of October 1994.

The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 703 additional spaces by 1998.

In partnership with the Cowichan Community, Malispina College and the First Nations Education Centre in Vancouver have developed a training program for First Nations early childhood educators.

PROVINCIAL CONTEXT [1]

Number of children 0-12 yrs (March, 1995 estimate)		Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (March, 1995 estimate)	
0-2	141,582	0-2	77,844
3-5	143,659	3-5	84,186
6-12	337,797	6-12	244,910
Total 0-12	623,038	Total	406,940

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991) [2]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	11,630	1,205	nil
5-14 yrs	20,715	1,905	285

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated) [3]

	0-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs
Use of technical aid	1343	2431	3841
Speech difficulty	2550	4948	3671
Developmental handicap	690 [4]	2355	2680

Workforce participation of mothers by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Age of youngest child	No. of mothers	Participation rate(%)
0-2	69,000	57.5
3-5	54,000	66.3
6-15	168,000	76.7

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Family-related leave

Maternity leave
18 weeks leave, available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 12 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

Family-related leave
5 days/year available to each employee to attend to the health, care, or educational needs of immediate family members.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for interpretation of the data.

2 - In British Columbia, 130 reserve and settlement census subdivisions with an estimated total population of 6,944, were either incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from these subdivisions are not included. Across the nation as a whole, approximately 36% of those who identified as North American Indian lived on reserves or settlements.

3 - Excludes reserves. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

4 -This figure should be used with caution. The standard deviation of the estimate for this age group is between 16.6% and 33.3%.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)[5]
Centre-based

Program type	Full-time spaces	Part-time spaces
Group day care (under 3 yrs)	2,218	-
Group day care (over 3 yrs)	12,013	-
Preschool	-	13,403
Out-of-school	-	13,360
Child minding	-	2,663
Special needs	1,165	-
Total	15,396	29,426

Family day care	14,972
Total regulated spaces	**59,794**
Total regulated spaces (1996)	**66,494**
Children with special needs in regulated child care (06/95)	1,111
Children receiving subsidies (09/95)	28,920
Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (03/1995)	
Non-profit	27,305
For-profit	17,517

5 - British Columbia collects enrollment, not capacity, figures and whether the children are enrolled part- or full-time is not tracked. Therefore, the figures below represent the enrollment of both full-and part-time children.

6 - Depending on ages of children in group.

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size: **Not specified**

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-3 yrs	1:4	12
30 mos-6 yrs	1:8	25
Preschool	1:10	20
School-age[6]	1:10-15	20-25
Special needs[6]	1:4	16-20

Staff qualification requirements
There are 3 categories of training:

Early childhood educator
Basic (at least 10 months) early childhood training program offered by an approved institution and 500 hours of supervised work experience.

Infant/toddler educator
Basic early childhood education program plus specialized training related to infant/toddler care and education.

Special needs educator
Basic early childhood education program plus specialized training related to children with special needs.

For the purposes of defining staffing requirements in child care programs, people who are currently enrolled in basic early childhood education training are called assistant early childhood educators.

Group day care, under 36 months
Each group of 5 to 8 children requires one infant/toddler educator and one early childhood educator. Each group of 9 to 12 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant.

Group day care 30 months to school-age
Each group requires one early childhood educator plus assistants.

Out-of-school and child-minding
Staff must be older than 19 years and have taken a course on the care of young children or have relevant work experience.

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Special needs
Special needs facilities (group care facilities where at least 25% of the children have special needs) require one special needs educator for every group of 4 or fewer children. Larger groups require one special needs educator plus early childhood educators.

Parent involvement
Not specified

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
The Ministry of Health, through the *Community Care Facility Act*, is responsible for licensing and monitoring of child care facilities as well as developing policies and procedures specific to program licensing.

The local Medical Health Officer, through licensing officers, issues interim permits and licenses, amends, suspends or cancels licenses, investigates complaints about programs, and conducts inspections and ongoing monitoring of programs.

New programs not in full compliance may be issued an interim license, providing the program with one year to come into compliance. After a year, a program with an interim permit will have a full license issued or licensing will be denied. Ministry of Health practice is to visit annually for license renewals but this is not legislated.

If a centre is in non-compliance, conditions can be placed on the license and the operator given a time frame in which to comply. If the situation is considered to be a danger to the children, the license can be suspended or cancelled. The operator can request a hearing before the Director of the Community Care Facilities Branch, and then, if not satisfied, can go to the Provincial Community Care Facilities Appeal Board, composed of non-government members, including people from the child care field, and its decisions are binding.

Regulated family day care

Regulation
Individually licensed

Maximum capacity
Up to 7 children under 12 years (including children living in the home). Of the 7 children, there may be no more than 5 preschoolers and 2 school-aged children, no more than 3 children under 3 years of age, and no more than one child under one year.

Provider qualification requirements
Must be over 19 years and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Annual licensing visits are conducted by Ministry of Health licensing officers. An initial inspection by the Fire Marshall's office is required when a new home opens.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. In 1995, the program was administered under *Guaranteed Available Income for Need* Act and Regulations.

In 1995, fee subsidies were not capped.

Eligibility is determined through an income test.

Families eligible for fee subsidy may use it in for-profit, non-profit, licensed or unregulated child care but may not use child minding services. Families who use in-own-home child care may be eligible for subsidy when the caregiver is not a relative who resides with the family. If unregulated care is used, the parent must complete a checklist on the provider and submit it to the Ministry of Social Services.

There is no minimum user fee.

Child care services may surcharge subsidized parents above the maximum subsidy rates.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$18,984	$27,816
2 parents, 2 children	$23,016	$31,846

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy/child/month (1995)

Type of care	Part-time monthly (4 hrs or less/day)	Full-time monthly (more than 4 hrs/day)
Family child care		
0-18 months	$219	$438
19-36 months	202	404
3-5 years	177	354
Centre-based		
0-18 months	$292	$585
19-36 months	264	528
3-5 years	184	368
Kindergarten	$204	$255
School-age	$147	$173
In-own-home		
1st child (0-18 mos)	$147	$394
1st child (over 18 mos)	159	318
2nd child (0-18 mos)	99	198
Each additional child	73	147

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding

Child care needs assessment and planning grants
Available to non-profit groups and local governments to assist in child care needs assessments and community planning.

Child care facilities and equipment grant program
Up to 50% of eligible capital costs available to assist with facility acquisition, renovation or purchase of furnishings and equipment. Available to non-profit child care services only.

Recurring funding

Infant/toddler incentive grant
Five dollars/day per occupied space to non-profit centre-based services which are licensed for children under 36 months. Three dollars/day per occupied space to licensed family day homes for 3 children under 3 years old.

Wage supplement initiative
Funds to enhance the wages of child care staff in non-profit and, as of 1995, for-profit programs. The wage supplement was capped as of November, 1995. New spaces are not eligible.

Special needs day care program (Supported child care)
Funds to assist with costs for caring for children with special needs in either designated integrated or segregated child care centres which have a contract with the government or through subsidization of individual children in other centre-based programs or in family day care homes. It is intended to cover equipment and additional staffing costs.

Child care quality enhancement grant
One-time grants to local governments, non-profit child care programs, and public post-secondary school institutions to enhance the quality, accessibility and affordability of child care services. Funding may be used for demonstration projects, professional development for caregivers and board members, community awareness activities and research and evaluation.

Other funding

Child care support programs
Annualized funding for non-profit organizations to assist in recruitment, support and training of both licensed and unlicensed family day care providers and the development and operation of child care operation manuals, financial counselling by telephone or on-site, training and workshops.

Financial management and administration support program
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre is funded to assist non-profit programs in developing and maintaining sound financial management practices. Projects funded include the development of manuals, training for board and community members, and financial counselling.

Provincial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	$93,606,151
One-time funding	5,739,987
Recurring funding	34,162,004
Other funding	7,295,519
Total	$140,803,661

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-12 yrs (1995) $226.00
(estimate based on total provincial expenditures)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95) $49,319,998

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

Information not available

Family day care rates

Information not available

Fees (1995)

Centres

Information not available

Family day care

Information not available

ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry for Children and Families now has the lead role in supporting, stabilizing and expanding child care services. Its responsibilities include: working with other ministries to coordinate child care policies; community planning and resource development; the administration of grants to child care programs; the provision of secretariat support for the Provincial Child Care Council; the facilitation of child care research; and overall responsibility for the fee subsidy program and the Special Needs/Supported Child Care Program.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for licensing, monitoring and enforcing compliance with the regulations, certifying early childhood educators, approving early childhood training programs, and developing policies and procedures specific to program licensing and certification of early childhood educators.

The Ministry of Social Services administers, on behalf of the Ministry for Children and Families, the fee subsidy program and Special Needs/Supported Child Care.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role. The City of Vancouver and some other municipalities play a role in planning and developing child care.

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CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no province-wide plan for child care development. There are no target levels of service, nor limits on licenses.

A province-wide program, BC21, included child care facilities in new public buildings, creating expansion.

A Provincial Child Care Council of 17 members appointed by the Minister addresses on policy matters and priorities.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

1910 The City Creche was established in Vancouver as a child care service and employment agency.

1930 Vancouver Day Nursery Association (later the Foster Day Care Association of Vancouver) was established to provide an employment service for women and a system of family day care homes opened.

1943 The *Welfare Institutions Licensing Act* was amended to govern and license creches, nursery playschools and kindergartens.

1968 B.C. Preschool Teachers' Association (now called the Early Childhood Educators of B.C.) was established.

1969 The Provincial Child Care Facilities Licencing Board replaced the Welfare Institutions Licensing Board.

1972 The Children's Services Employees Union was established.

1981 The B.C. Day Care Action Coalition was established.

1982 The Western Canada Family Day Care Association was established.

1990 A Task Force on Child Care was appointed.

1991 The Task Force on Child Care Report, *Showing we care: A child care strategy for the 90's*, was released.

1992 The Child Care Branch, Ministry of Women's Equality, was established. The Provincial Child Care Facilities Licensing Board was disbanded and replaced by a Director of Community Care Facilities.

The Ministry of Women's Equality took over existing grant programs from the Ministry of Social Services (Infant/toddler Incentives Grant, Emergency Repair, Replacement, and Relocation, and Facilities and Equipment), and established the Needs Assessment and Planning Grants, and the Quality Enhancement Grants.

A province-wide consultation on child care for children with special needs was conducted. A committee was formed to make recommendations for children with special needs.

1993 A child care regulation review began.

The Special Needs Day Care Review Board released their report *Supported Child Care*.

A Provincial Child Care Council was appointed to provide advice to the Minister of Women's Equality on child care.

A school-based child care working group was established by the Ministry of Education to address ways to increase school district participation in the development of school-age child care.

A local government working group was established by the Ministry of Women's Equality to recommend actions to assist local government to improve and expand child care services.

The child care fee subsidy program and funding of the special needs program was shifted from the Ministry of Social Services to the Ministry of Women's Equality.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In 1993 BC 21, a plan to create 7,500 new child care spaces over 3 years in public buildings, is announced.

In 1994 a Child Care Policy Team was established to coordinate child care policy across government ministries.

In 1995 the wage supplement was made available to eligible for-profit child care programs.

In 1996 British Columbia introduced Bill 13, *The BC Benefits (Child Care) Act*. This superceded the *GAIN Act* as the source of fee subsidies. The announcement of this new legislation also included an announcement of 4,000 fee subsidies for parents seeking jobs and/or job training.

KEY PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
1675 West 4th Avenue, Suite 201
Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 1L8
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Facsimile: (604) 739-3289

Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC)
1675 - 4th Avenue, Suite 201
Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 1L8
Telephone: (604) 739-0770
Facsimile: (604) 739-3289

British Columbia Daycare Action Coalition
1675 - 4th Avenue, Suite 201
Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 1L8
Telephone: (604) 739-3099
Facsimile: (604) 739-3289

Western Canada Family Day Care Association
c/o 9527 - 120th Street, Suite 212B
Delta, British Columbia V4C 6S3
Telephone: (604) 951-1870
Facsimile: (604) 951-1870

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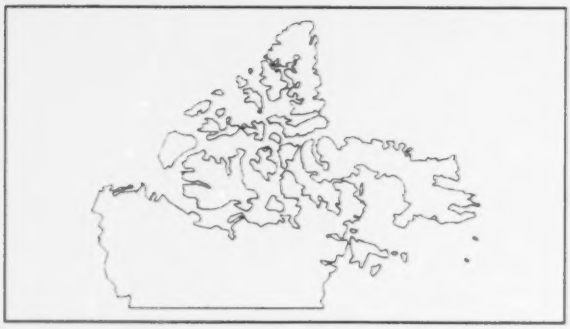
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



LEGISLATION

Northwest Territories. Legislative Assembly. The *Northwest Territories Child Day Care Act* and the *Child Day Care Standards and Regulations* 1988.

TERRITORIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

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Government of the Northwest Territories
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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9
Telephone: (403) 920-8780
Facsimile: (403) 873-0338

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted	4

Figure includes the caregiver's own children up to 12 years.

Regulated child care

Day care centres
Group care, instruction and supervision for 5 or more children aged 0-12 years by a person who is not a relative of the majority of the children.

Nursery schools
Programs for children less than 6 years of age for 4 consecutive hours or less a day.

After-school care
Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to and including 11 years of age, not exceeding 5 hours outside the required school program.

Family day homes
Care in a private home for up to 8 children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs.

Care providers are funded to provide extra support, and parents are eligible for fee assistance for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. This subsidy eligibility requires a financial needs assessment to be applied and parents must have a medical referral from a recognized health care official for the child to be in developmental care.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

The Northwest Territories funds and licenses on-reserve child care.

There are presently 14 licensed child care centres/day homes in 8 Inuit communities; 17 licensed child care centres/day homes in 8 Dene communities; and 24 licensed child care centres/day homes operating in Yellowknife.

The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 155 additional First Nations spaces and 414 Inuit spaces by 1998. This is expected to be a major influence in expansion and development.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT [1]

Projected number of children 0-14 yrs (1995) [2]

0-4	7,600
5-9	7,300
9-14	6,000
Total	20,900

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force

Information not available

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991) [3]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	1,415	565	3,500
5-14 yrs	2,170	815	5,435

Children 0-9 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991, estimated) [4]

	0-9 yrs
Use of technical aid	123
Speech difficulty	176
Developmental handicap	40

Workforce participation of women by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Information not available

Family-related leave

Pregnancy leave (Maternity leave)
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

Parental leave
The mother and the father are **each** entitled to 12 weeks leave. Available to natural and adoptive parents.

1 - See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for the interpretation of the data.

2 - Note that data on the number of children 0-12 years in the Territories are not comparable to Provincial data.

3 - The Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada in which aboriginal people make up the majority of the population. In the Northwest Territories, all native reserves and settlements were enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*.

4 - Apparently, in the Northwest Territories, the numbers were too small for Statistics Canada to be able to make estimates by the age categories 0-4 yrs, 5-9 yrs, and 10-14 yrs. Therefore, an estimate for age 0-9 yrs is provided. Excludes reserves. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995)	
Centre-based	1,182
Family day care	104
Total regulated spaces	1,286
Total regulated spaces (1996)	1,240
Children with special needs in regulated child care	14
Children receiving subsidies (1995) (131 of these children are in regulated child care)	350
Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (1995)	
Non-profit	1,089
For-profit	93

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size: Not specified

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-12 mos	1:3	6
13-24 mos	1:4	8
25-35 mos	1:6	12
3 yrs	1:8	16
4 yrs	1:9	18
5-11 yrs	1:10	20

Staff qualification requirements
Must be at least 19 years and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.

Parent involvement
The legislation requires non-profit programs to have boards of directors with at least 51% parent members. For-profit programs are required to establish and confirm in writing with the Director of the Child Day Care Section a plan for involving the parents or guardians of children attending the centre in the operation of the program.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Licenses are granted for 3-5 years. Annual inspections of all licensed child care centres are conducted by a Program Officer from the Child Day Care Section, the Public Health Department, and Fire Marshall's office. The Program Officer is required to have a background in early childhood education.

Regulated family day care

Regulation
Individually licensed

Maximum capacity
Maximum of 8 children under 12 years (including the caregiver's own children). No more than 6 of the 8 children may be 5 years or under, no more than 3 children may be under 3 years, and no more than 2 children may be under 2 years.

Provider qualification requirements
A provider must be a minimum of 19 years of age and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Homes are visited a least once a year by a Program Officer from the Child Day Care Section and representative from each of the Public Health Department and the Fire Marshall's office.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents if it is a regulated service. In the case of unregulated care, the subsidy is paid to the parent, not the care provider.

The intention of the subsidy program is to provide assistance for the parent to work or take part in a training program. Eligibility is determined by a needs assessment which takes into consideration parent costs and family size as well as income.

In 1995 subsidies were payable to any regulated for-profit or non-profit service or to an unregulated arrangement. Payments for unregulated care are made directly to the parents, based on an attendance report signed by the child care provider.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (1995)
Eligibility varies with clients' actual housing, utility and child care costs, plus social assistance rates of food and clothing. A needs assessment is applied so there is no set break-even point. There is no territory-wide maximum subsidy. Maximums are set for the type of care. There is no minimum user fee.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding
Start-up funding is available to non-profit licensed centres and family day homes; it includes part-time, infant, after-school and special needs spaces from $188-3,420/space.

Recurring funding
Operating funding is available to non-profit, licensed centres and family day homes from $1.25 -14.25/occupied space/day.

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-14 years (1995) $81.74
(estimate based on total territorial expenditures and projected child population)

Territorial expenditures on child care 1994/95

Fee subsidy	$695,000
One-time funding	
Start-up grants	233,359
Recurring funding	
Operating grants	780,000
Total	$1,708,359

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95) Information not available

Salaries (1995)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs	
Assistant teachers	$10.50
Teachers	12.00
Teacher directors	14.00
Administrative directors	17.00
Overall mean hourly wage	$13.38

Family day care rates

$500-600/child/month (estimate)

Fees (1995, average monthly)

Centres	
Infants	$560
Preschool	530
School-age	145
Family day care	
Infants	$543
Preschool	536
School-age	150

ADMINISTRATION

The Early Childhood Program of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is responsible for the development of standards, the regulation of child care services, fee subsidy administration, contributions to child care programs and the development of a territorial child care system.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

There is no legislated municipal role.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no territorial plan for the development of child care. New centres must complete a needs assessment before they are eligible to apply for start-up funding.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

1971 First child care centre to receive territorial government funding was opened in Iqaluit (then known as Frobisher Bay). It taught children in both English and Inuktitut syllabics and had four Inuit child care workers.

1970s Child care centres set up at the instigation of parents and community members. Funding was generally through federal government Local Initiative Project (LIP) grants with some user subsidy for parents in need from the Territorial government.

1974 The Policy Respecting Day Care Services noted that while numerous child care services were in operation, only two were receiving operational financial support from the Territory (the original centre in Iqaliut and a second centre in Yellowknife).

1976 The Territory finalized a policy on fee subsidies for child care centres, family day care, and after-school programs.

1980 The Territory adopted the *Policy Respecting Subsidized Day Care* in the Northwest Territories, which considered costs and income to determine eligibility for subsidization of children in unregulated child care.

1983 Establishment of the Northwest Territories Child Care Association which circulated voluntary standards for child care centres.

1985 The territorial government hired a Day Care Consultant to review child care issues and make recommendations.

1988 The government enacted its first child care legislation, the Northwest Territories *Child Day Care Act.*

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women released a policy paper on child care which outlined a comprehensive program to develop a system of child care services (*Position paper on child care*).

The first early childhood education training program in the Northwest Territories was opened in Arctic College in Iqaluit and was delivered in both English and Inuktitut.

1989 A consultant was hired by the Native Council of Canada to research the specific child care needs of native peoples in the Northwest Territories.

The Interim Day Care program came into force in April.

1993 Child care responsibilities were moved from the Department of Social Services to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Following a major consultation and internal review, the program became the Early Childhood Program in September 1994. Eligibility for financial support for part-time care and enhanced operational support for infants and special needs children were added.

Licensing in two Eastern regions was decentralized.

In 1996 the major integration initiative was early intervention.

KEY TERRITORIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Yellowknife Family Day Home Association
35 England Crescent
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 3N5
Telephone: (403) 873-5480

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YUKON TERRITORY

LEGISLATION

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *The Child Care Act*, 1990.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Centre Program Regulation*, 1995.

Yukon Territory. *Legislative Assembly. Family Day Home Program Regulation*, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *School-Age Program Regulation*, 1995.

Yukon Territory. Legislative Assembly. *Child Care Subsidy Regulation*, 1995.

TERRITORIAL OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILD CARE

Debbie Mauch, Supervisor
Child Care Services Unit
Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Yukon Territory
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Territories Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (403) 667-3493
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CHILD CARE SERVICES

Unregulated child care

Maximum number of children permitted	3

Figure excludes the caregiver's own children.

Regulated child care

Child care centres
Group care for less than 24 hours a day for 4 or more children 0-12 years in a place other than a preschool, a school-age program, or a family day home.

Preschool programs
Group programs for children 3-6 years for less than 3 consecutive hours.

School-age child care
Care outside school hours for school-aged children up to 12 years.

Family day homes
Care in a private home for mixed-age groups up to a maximum of 8 children in groups with: no more than 4 infants; or no more than 6 preschool-age children where not more than 3 are infants; or no more than 8 preschool children (including the providers' own children under 6 years). Additional staff are required in family day homes for up to 4 school-age children in addition to the number of preschool-age children.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

New child care regulations, implemented September 1, 1995, state that children with special needs in mainstream child care programs must be integrated to the fullest extent possible. A child is designated "special needs" on the assessment of a child care professional. An Individual Program Plan must be developed for the child in consultation with staff, parents and professionals in the community. The Plan outlines goals and objectives for the child.

There are no segregated child care programs in the Yukon Territory.

ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

The Yukon funds and licenses on-reserve child care.

Five Indian Bands operate 5 licensed child care centres, approximately 100 licensed spaces in total. Bands receive start-up grants from the Yukon government to assist with the costs of opening child care services. Direct operating grants assist with maintenance and wage costs.

The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 41 additional spaces by 1998.

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT[1]

Projected number of children 0-14 yrs (1995)[2]

0-4	2,700
5-9	2,700
10-14	2,600
Total	8,000

Children 0-12 yrs with mothers in the paid labour force (1994)

Information not available

Children 0-14 yrs identifying with an aboriginal group (1991)[3]

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	515	nil	nil
5-14 yrs	880	nil	nil

Children 0-14 yrs with disabilities residing at home (1991)[4]

Use of technical aid	78
Speech difficulty	91
Developmental handicap	35

Workforce participation of women by age of youngest child (1995 rounded estimate)

Information not available

Family-related leave

Maternity leave
17 weeks leave available to the natural mother only.

1- See explanatory notes on page i for data sources and information important for interpretation of the data.

2 - Note that data on the number of children 0-12 years in the Territories are not comparable to Provincial data.

3 - In the Yukon, the census subdivisions in aboriginal comm-unities, with an estimated total population of 580 people, were incompletely or not enumerated as part of the *Aboriginal Peoples Survey*. Data from these sub-divisions are not included.

4 - Excludes reserves. Due to the small number of children, it was not possible for Statistics Canada to provide estimates broken down into the age categories 0-4 yrs, 5-9 yrs, and 10-14 yrs. Each category refers to the estimated number of children with that disability. There is some potential for double-counting, for example, a child counted in the use of technical aid category might also be counted in the speech difficulty category.

SPACE STATISTICS

Number of regulated child care spaces (1995) [5]

Centre-based	
Infants/toddlers	230
Preschool	419
School-age	189
Family day home	222
Total regulated spaces	1,060
Total regulated spaces (1996)	1,190
Children with special needs in regulated child care (09/95)	35
Children receiving subsidies (1995)	680
Sponsorship of regulated centre spaces (1995)	
Non-profit	631
For-profit	207

STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

Regulated centres

Maximum centre size 64 spaces

Maximum staff/child ratios and group sizes [6]

Age	Staff/child ratios	Max. group sizes
0-18 mos	1:4	8
18 mos-2 yrs	1:6	12
3-6 yrs	1:8	16
6-12 yrs [7]	1:12	24

5 - All spaces are considered to be full-time. However, preschool programs operate for less than 3 consecutive hours.

6 - Preschool programs which care for children for less than 3 consecutive hours at a time are allowed to operate with a ratio of 1:10 instead of the required 1:8 for preschool-aged groups in child care centres.

7 - The current Act and Regulations covers special needs children up to age 16 .

Staff qualification requirements

In centre-based care, each group of children must be under the supervision of at least one caregiver who is certified in a first-aid course approved by the director.

By September, 1997 50% of the regular staff in a program must meet or exceed the Child Care Worker I qualifications. By 1999, the new regulations require that an additional 30% of the staff must meet or exceed the Child Care Worker II qualifications. By 2000, the new regulations require that an additional 20% of staff must meet or exceed the Child Care Worker III qualifications.

Child Care Worker 1: successfully completed a 60 hour introduction to early childhood development course or equivalent.
Child Care Worker II: successfully completed one year of training in early childhood development or equivalent.
Child Care Worker III: successfully completed 2 or more years of training in early childhood development or equivalent.

Parent involvement

The operator of the centre must ensure that open communication is maintained with parents and guardians on all matters affecting their child. Parents and guardians must also have reasonable access to the program, inspection reports, written policies, menus, log of injuries, *The Child Care Act*, and the *Regulation and Guidelines*, and the *Child Care Subsidy Regulation*.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement

A government Child Care Coordinator conducts one required annual inspection and in practice, also conducts 3 to 5 unannounced visits per year to each child care centre. Child Care Coordinators are required to have a background in early childhood education. Centres are also required to have an annual fire and environmental health inspection.

If a centre is in non-compliance with the regulations, they are given an order to comply. If the centre does not come into compliance within the stated time-frame allowed by the order, the license may be suspended or revoked. If a license is suspended or revoked, the centre can appeal to the Yukon Child Care Board, composed of community members appointed by the Minister for a 2 year term. Its decision is binding.

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Regulated family day care

Regulation
Individually licensed

Maximum capacity
Up to 8 children (including the provider's own preschool but not school-aged children). There may be no more than 3 infants if there are also 3 children who are preschoolers or school-age already enrolled. If there is an additional caregiver, there may be an additional 4 school-age children.

Provider qualification requirements
Caregivers must complete a 60 hour introductory early childhood development course, a specific family day home course, or equivalent within the first year they provide care for children. Caregivers must be 18 years of age and have a first-aid certificate.

Licensing, monitoring and enforcement
Family day care homes are regulated by the same legislation as child care centres. They receive one annual inspection and 4 to 5 unannounced spot checks per year by a government child care coordinator to monitor for compliance with the regulations.

FUNDING

Child care fee subsidy program

Fee assistance is paid directly to service providers on behalf of eligible parents. Eligibility is determined through an income test.

Eligibility for fee subsidy (net income, 1995)

	Turning point	Break-even point
1 parent, 1 child	$17,772	$28,572
2 parents, 2 children	26,172	47,772

The turning point is the income level up to which full subsidy is available. Partial subsidy is available up to the break-even point at which income subsidy ceases.

Maximum subsidy/child/month (1995)

Infant	$500
Preschool	450
School-age	225
Child with special needs	500

The number of subsidies is not capped in the Yukon. There is no minimum user fee. Group programs and family daycare homes may surcharge subsidized parents fees above the maximum subsidy rate. Subsidies may be used in any regulated for-profit or non-profit service.

Funding for child care programs (1995)

One-time funding
Start-up grants

Recurring funding
Operating grants
Available to centres licensed before September 1995. The total number is frozen. Operating grants become available to a new centre, only when a centre currently receiving an operating grant closes.

Other funding
Whitehorse Child Development Centre

Territorial expenditures on child care (1994/95)

Fee subsidy	2,235,439
One-time funding	56,558
Recurring funding	1,046,493
Other funding	810,000
Total	$4,148,490

Annual child care expenditure for each child 0-14 yrs (1995) $518.56
(estimate based on total territorial expenditures and projected child population)

Federal funding: Entitlements on child care expenditures (1994/95) $1,315,864

Salaries (1994)

Mean hourly wage in centre-based programs

No training	$9.70
Level I	10.43
Level II	11.90
Level III	14.02
Directors	16.02

Family day care

$2,640 - $6,045/month

Rate varies depending on the age of the children. Rate is based on an 8 hour day.

Fees (1995, average monthly)

Centres	
Infant /toddler	$560
Preschooler	500
School-age	215
Family day care	
Infant	$565
Toddler	475
Preschooler	475
School-age (kindergarten age)	425
School-age (6 + yrs+)	215

ADMINISTRATION

The department of Health and Social Services, Child Care Services Unit is responsible for licensing and monitoring child care and for fee subsidy administration.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

Legislation permits municipalities to hold licenses to directly operate child care programs although none currently do so.

CHILD CARE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Working together: A child care strategy for the Yukon (1988) outlined a 4 year plan for child care development in the Yukon. New child care programs are developed on the basis of demonstrated community need.

HISTORY OF CHILD CARE IN YUKON TERRITORY

1961 A preschool playgroup was included in the activities at the Skookum Jim Memorial Hall in Whitehorse.

1968 A kindergarten program and after-school tutorial session for school-age children was established in Whitehorse

1974 The Yukon Child Care Association was formed.

1979 The *Day Care Ordinance*, providing for licensing child care, was passed.

1986 Regulations were revised and operating grants introduced.

1987 A capital grant program was established.

1988 *Working together: A child care strategy for the Yukon*, a 4 year plan for expanding child care in the Yukon was presented by the government.

1989 The government released its strategy for the implementation of the *Working Together* document and the expansion of child care.

1990 Enactment of *The Child Care Act*.
The First Year Review reported on the first year of the 4 year plan.

1992 Federal grant to Yukon College for the provision of distance early childhood education courses.

1993 The consultation process on revised regulations and proposed new guidelines (which, for the first time, will cover school-aged child care) is completed

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In September 1995, new child care, family day home care, subsidy and school-age regulations were implemented. Guidelines and policies for child care centres and family day home care programs were published and circulated by the Department of Health and Social Services.

In addition to new spaces in non-profit centres and family day care homes, the child care fee subsidy program now recognizes cost of living differences between remote and less remote communities.

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KEY TERRITORIAL CHILD CARE ORGANIZATIONS

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ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Canada's aboriginal populations include First Nations and non-status native people (on- and off-reserve), Métis and Inuit. Although many aboriginal people live in remote and/or northern areas, there are large southern, urban populations as well.

Children 0-14 years identifying with an aboriginal group, Canada (1991)

	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit
0-4 yrs	64,350	19,050	5,965
5-14 yrs	107,975	31,930	5,435

ISSUES

Flexibility/accessibility

All aboriginal groups have child populations which are larger than the national average, making child care an especially important issue. However, aboriginal children are under-represented in current child care services. There is a particular need for a wide range of flexible services that will accommodate the diverse needs of the aboriginal community.

Cultural integrity

The maintenance of indigenous culture is a major concern for all aboriginal peoples. Aboriginal organizations point out that general standards for child care centres are sometimes too rigid for northern and/or remote communities and that they may not reflect traditional cultural norms and practices. Culturally sensitive early childhood education, as it pertains to training and service delivery, is of special concern. There is a strong interest among aboriginal groups in developing child care that is operated and controlled by the communities themselves.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Generally, on-reserve social programs depend upon the federal government for funding. Canadian policy pertaining to child care for aboriginal people is fragmented and poorly developed.

On-reserve communities generally cannot access funds for child care subsidies through the *Canada Assistance Plan*. There is no specific policy about off-reserve, or Métis child care.

Historically, the regulation of aboriginal child care, like regulation of other child care, has been assumed to be the responsibility of provincial governments. However, some provincial governments do not regulate on-reserve child care and in some provinces, First Nations communities do not recognize provincial jurisdiction on reserves. In the past child care funding was limited to First Nations in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and in Ontario and Alberta where the Department of Indian and Northern Development (DIAND) covers costs in accordance with provincial funding policies. In Québec, child care programs for First Nations children have received federal funding through the James Bay Northern Québec Agreement.

Spending on existing aboriginal child care through INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) is estimated at:

1994/95	$15 million
1995/96	$17 million
1996/97	$18 million
1997/98	$18 million

INITIATIVES

Until 1993, there was relatively little spending for aboriginal child care in Canada. There are two federal initiatives relevant to aboriginal child care.

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Aboriginal Head Start, a Health Canada program, is a federally-funded early intervention strategy for aboriginal children in urban centres and northern communities. Its goal is to support early childhood development strategies designed and controlled by aboriginal people. An estimated $62 million is to be spent on Aboriginal Head Start between 1994 and 1998.

The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative, a Human Resources Development Canada program, was announced in 1995. It is intended to achieve levels of quality and quantity of child care in First Nations and Inuit communities that are comparable to those available to the general population. The initiative, 100% federally funded, will provide 72 million over 3 years for the development and/or upgrading of spaces and 36 million for ongoing funding. The target of 6,000 spaces is intended to meet the accessibility level of the general population.

First Nations and Inuit organizations have assumed the responsibility for administration of funds and for developing regulated child care services and related support programs like family resources centres. Funding for the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative is not intended to replace existing funding programs under INAC.

The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative funding was part of federal funds commited to child care in the 1993 federal election ($720 million over 3 years) in the Red Book; most of this sum, however, was not implemented.

THE BIG PICTURE...

Table 1
Number of children 0-12 years in Canada - March, 1995 estimate

Province/Territory	0-2	3-5	6-12	Total 0-12
Newfoundland & Labrador	19,344	21,781	56,861	**97,986**
Prince Edward Island	5,309	5,892	13,906	**25,107**
Nova Scotia	33,146	36,933	86,343	**156,422**
New Brunswick	26,662	28,949	70,425	**126,036**
Quebec	275,026	290,252	627,028	**1,192,306**
Ontario	439,851	458,643	1,024,079	**1,922,573**
Manitoba	44,985	46,939	106,311	**198,235**
Saskatchewan	40,059	44,529	107,127	**191,715**
Alberta	116,518	124,515	289,243	**530,276**
British Columbia	141,582	143,659	337,797	**623,038**
Northwest Territories		Information not available		
Yukon Territory		Information not available		
Total	**1,142,482**	**1,202,092**	**2,719,120**	**5,063,694**

Table 2
Children 0-12 years with mothers in the paid labour force - March, 1995 estimate

Province/Territory	0-2	3-5	6-12	Total 0-12
Newfoundland & Labrador	10,166	12,213	32,969	**55,348**
Prince Edward Island	3,794	4,106	9,588	**17,488**
Nova Scotia	18,803	21,219	53,055	**93,077**
New Brunswick	14,972	15,170	43,224	**73,366**
Quebec	163,666	160,866	399,561	**724,093**
Ontario	262,157	276,775	710,770	**1,249,702**
Manitoba	24,837	30,105	75,944	**130,886**
Saskatchewan	24,750	29,766	79,583	**134,099**
Alberta	71,838	82,343	211,372	**365,553**
British Columbia	77,844	84,186	244,910	**406,940**
Northwest Territory		Information not available		
Yukon Territory		Information not available		
Total	**672,827**	**716,749**	**1,860,976**	**3,250,552**

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Table 3
Regulated child care spaces in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Centre-based full- and part-day child care[1]	School-age	Regulated family day care	Total regulated spaces	Proportion of children 0-12 for whom there is a regulated child care space (%)
Newfoundland & Labrador	3,705	497	none	4,202	4.3
Prince Edward Island	3,292	568	28	3,888	15.5
Nova Scotia	10,476	n/a	169	10,645	6.8
New Brunswick	7,838	n/a	114	7,952	6.3
Québec	52,911	40,670[2]	17,871	111,452[3]	9.4[4]
Ontario	128,955	n/a	18,898	147,853	7.7
Manitoba	12,480	3,255	3,111	18,846	9.5
Saskatchewan	3,727	926	2,613	7,266	3.8
Alberta	43,262	none	7,826	51,088	9.6
British Columbia	31,462	13,360	14,972	59,794	9.6
Northwest Territory	1,182	n/a	104	1,286	---
Yukon Territory	649	189	222	1,060	---
Total	**299,939**	**59,465**	**65,928**	**425,332[5]**	**8.4[6]**

1 This category includes full-day and part-day spaces because a number of provinces cannot provide break-downs.

2 School-age child care in Québec is not regulated by l'Office des services de garde à l'enfance but is operated by school boards. These spaces are included here.

3 This figure includes the school board-operated school-age child care spaces that are not regulated by l'Office. Therefore, the total given in this table will not match the total number of regulated spaces given in the Québec provincial information, where the school-age spaces have been listed separately.

4 This proportion has been calculated including the school board-operated unregulated school-age child care spaces.

5 Will not equal the sum of all types of services as given in the table. Some facilities offer more than one service and the licensed capacity for a particular facility does not always equal the sum of spaces by service. Total includes school board-operated unregulated school-age child care spaces for Québec.

6 Figures for the number of children 0-12 years in the Territories were unavailable; therefore, the territorial figures for regulated child care spaces have been excluded from the calculation of this proportion. This proportion has been calculated including school board-operated unregulated school-age child care spaces for Québec.

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Table 4
Sponsorship of regulated centre-based spaces in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Non-profit	Commercial	Publicly-operated	Proportion not-for-profit (%)
Newfoundland & Labrador	1,002	1,944	none	34
Prince Edward Island	2,636	1,224	none	68
Nova Scotia	6,284	4,192	none	60
New Brunswick	4,679	3,159	none	60
Québec	35,494	17,267	40,820*	82**
Ontario	103,373	25,582	n/a	80
Manitoba	7,271	1,011	none	88
Saskatchewan	4,530	97	26	98
Alberta	16,261	27,001	n/a	38
British Columbia	27,305	17,517	none	61
Northwest Territories	1,089	93	none	92
Yukon Territory	631	207	none	75
Total	210,555	99,294	40,846	72

Full- and part-time spaces may be included in these figures because some provinces cannot provide breakdowns. Where possible, however, figures have been given for full-time spaces only. Not-for-profit category includes both non-profit and publicly-operated spaces.

* Figure includes school board-operated unregulated school-age child care spaces. Figure also includes other publicly-operated spaces.
** This proportion has been calculated including school board-operated unregulated school-age child care spaces.

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Table 5
Varieties of child care services in Canada - 1995

Province/ Territory	Centre-based full-day	Centre-based part-time	School-age	Regulated family day care	Other child care
Newfound-land & Labrador	▸ Day care centres	▸ Day care centres	▸ School-age child care centres	*Newfoundland does not offer regulated family day care*	———
Prince Edward Island	**▸ Early childhood centres**	**▸ Early childhood centres ▸ Kindergartens ▸ Nursery schools**	**▸ School-age child care centres**	**▸ Family day care homes**	**▸ Occasional centres**
Nova Scotia	▸ Child care centres	▸ Preschool programs ▸ Nursery schools ▸ Parent co-operatives ▸ Child development centres	▸ School-age programs	▸ Family day care homes	———
New Brunswick	**▸ Day care centres**	**▸ Day care centres**	**▸ School-age child care centres**	**▸ Community day care homes**	———
Québec	▸ Garderies/child care centres	▸ Jardins d'enfants nursery schools *(not regulated)*	▸ Milieu scolaire/school-age child care *(not regulated)*	▸ Milieu familial/ family day care	▸ Haltes-garderies/stop-over centres *(not regulated)*
Ontario	**▸ Day nurseries**	**▸ Nursery schools**	**▸ School-age child care**	**▸ Supervised private home day care *(commonly referred to as home child care)***	**▸ Child care resource centres *(not regulated)***
Manitoba	▸ Day care centres	▸ Nursery schools	▸ School-age day care centres	▸ Family day care homes ▸ Group day care homes	▸ Occasional day care centres
Saskatchewan	**▸ Child day care centres**	**▸ Part-day programs *(not regulated)***	**▸ School-age child care**	**▸ Family child care homes**	———
Alberta	▸ Day care centres	▸ Nursery schools	▸Out-of-school child care programs *(not regulated by province)*	▸ Approved family day homes	▸ Licensed drop-in centre
British Columbia	**▸ Group day care centres**	**▸ Preschools**	**▸ Out-of-school care**	**▸ Family child care**	**▸ Child care support programs ▸ Emergency care ▸ Child minding ▸ Ski hill or resort care**
Northwest Territories	▸ Day care centres	▸ Nursery schools	▸ After-school care	▸ Family day homes	———
Yukon Territory	▸ Child care centres	▸ Preschool programs	▸ School-age child care	▸ Family day homes	———

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Table 6
Family leave policy in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Maternity Leave	Parental Leave	Adoption Leave
Newfoundland & Labrador	17 weeks	12 weeks	17 weeks
Prince Edward Island	17 weeks	17 weeks	None
Nova Scotia	17 weeks	17 weeks	None
New Brunswick[1]	17 weeks	12 weeks	None
Québec[2]	18 weeks	34 weeks	5 days
Ontario	17 weeks	18 weeks	None
Manitoba	17 weeks	17 weeks	None
Saskatchewan	18 weeks	12 weeks	18 weeks
Alberta	18 weeks	None	8 weeks
British Columbia[3]	18 weeks	12 weeks	None
Northwest Territories	17 weeks	12 weeks	None
Yukon Territories	17 weeks	None	None

Leaves are specific time periods in which a parent is absent from work due to the birth, arrival or care of a child. During this period of time, his/her job is protected. Provinces/territories determine eligibility and duration of leave. All leaves are unpaid, unless otherwise stated. A benefit is cash paid for a period of time because of the birth or arrival of a child into a family. Benefits are paid through the federal unemployment insurance program at a maximum of 55% of salary. Individual employers may top up the benefit.

In all provinces except Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Yukon Territory, parental leave is available to each parent, whether natural or adoptive.

1. In New Brunswick, parental leave is called "child care leave", and is only available to one parent.
2. Quebec allows 5 days/year to each parent for emergency child care situations.
3. British Columbia allows 5 days/year to each employee to attend to the health, care, or educational needs of immediate family members.

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Table 7
Aboriginal child care in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Aboriginal child care
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland does not fund or license on-reserve child care centres. There is one regulated Inuit child care centre in Nain, Labrador. The federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 225 additional spaces for the Atlantic region by 1998. Atlantic region is defined as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland but not Labrador, which is included with Québec.
Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island does not fund or license child care programs on reserve. There is one kindergarten centre on reserve but it is not licensed. See Newfoundland for information on the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative in the Atlantic region.
Nova Scotia	There are several child care programs on-reserve in Nova Scotia which the province does not fund or license. See Newfoundland for information on the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative in the Atlantic region.
New Brunswick	New Brunswick licenses one 30 space First Nations child care centre but does not fund any on-reserve child care programs. Some Head Start programs on-reserve, serving in-need and at-risk aboriginal children, receive funding for Indian, Child and Family Services, through a tripartite agreement. This is a three-party agreement between the First Nations of New Brunswick, the provincial department of Health and Community Services and the federal department of Indian and Northern Development. The MicMac Maliseet Child Care Council was established in 1992 to address quality issues in First Nations centre-based child care. See Newfoundland for information on the First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative in the Atlantic region.
Québec	Québec regulates on-reserve child care. In 1995, there were 6 child care centres and one family day care agency on-reserve, and several other centres under construction. On-reserve child care in Québec is funded through several agreements between First Nations communities and federal and provincial governments. In addition, the federal First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets growth of more than 500 spaces in additional First Nations and Inuit child care by 1998. The Québec Native Women's Association plays a key role in facilitating the development of First Nations child care in Québec (and Labrador).
Ontario	Ontario funds and licenses on-reserve child care. As of September, 1994 there were 48 licensed child care centres on-reserve with a licensed capacity of 1,803. There were also 5 centres off-reserve serving aboriginal children with a licensed capacity of 160, and 4 private home day care agencies with 36 homes serving aboriginal children. *The Day Nurseries Act* treats Indian Bands in a manner analogous to municipalities for the purpose of child care funding and administration. Expenses are cost-shared with the federal government through the 1965 Canada/Ontario Agreement Respecting Welfare Programs for Indians.

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Manitoba	Manitoba does not license or fund child care programs on-reserve. There are 27 child care centres which primarily serve aboriginal children off-reserve. Nine child care centres in the province provide culturally-based aboriginal child care services. The First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 1,042 additional spaces by 1998. A First Nations early childhood education training program has been developed in Opaskawayak-Keewatin Community College. A certificate program for studies in Aboriginal child care is offered through Red River Community College.
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan does not license child care programs on-reserve. Native organizations operate 3 licensed child care services for native children off-reserve. In Meadow Lake, 5 family day care homes have been established through the tribal council child care agency. The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 871 additional spaces by 1998.
Alberta	Alberta funds and licenses on-reserve child care. In 1991, Alberta and the federal government agreed to cost-share child care programs on reserve. Alberta would provide licensing support and administer child care fee subsidies and the federal government would provide funding under the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. In 1995, there were 18 on-reserve child care centres (9 licensed), with a total of 721 spaces. The First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 127 additional spaces by 1998.
British Columbia	British Columbia funds and licenses on-reserve child care. There are 14 licenced child care centres on reserves currently receiving a total of 58 grants from the province. Child care centres run by Band and Tribal Councils became eligible to apply for provincial grants as of October 1994. The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 703 additional spaces by 1998. In partnership with the Cowichan Community, Malispina College and the First Nations Education Centre in Vancouver have developed a training program for First Nations early childhood educators.
Northwest Territories	The Northwest Territories funds and licenses on-reserve child care. There are presently 14 licensed child care centres day homes in 8 Inuit communities; 17 licensed child care centres day homes in 8 Dene communities; and 24 licenced child care centres day homes operating in Yellowknife. The First Nations Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 155 additional First Nations spaces and 414 Inuit spaces by 1998. This is expected to be a major influence in expansion and development.
Yukon Territory	The Yukon funds and licenses on-reserve child care. Five Indian Bands operate 5 licensed child care centres, approximately 100 licensed spaces in total. Bands receive start-up grants from the Yukon government to assist with the costs of opening child care services. Direct operating grants assist with maintenance and wage costs. The First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative targets a growth of 41 additional spaces by 1998.

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Table 8
Child care for children with special needs in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Special needs child care
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland does not have a written policy regarding children with special needs. One regulated centre works exclusively with children at environmental risk and their families, serving approximately 50 children at a time, some full-time and some part-time. Fee subsidies for children with special needs integrated into child care centres may be available from government divisions other than Family and Rehabilitative Services. There are no special training requirements for staff working with children with special needs.
Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island does not have a written policy regarding children with special needs. There are no segregated child care programs for children with disabilities. A Special Needs Project, composed of government officials, early childhood educators, health practitioners and community representatives is expected to release a report in late 1997 with recommendations to include the development of a written policy and a requirement for specialized training for staff working with children with special needs.
Nova Scotia	In Nova Scotia, registered child care centres may receive additional funding of up to $23.50 a day if they enrol children with special needs; parents using these services are not income tested. More specialized services may enrol 50% children with special needs together with 50% typical children. Two segregated full-time programs operate, one for children with behavioural problems, and the other for children with a variety of needs. From 1993-1996, 10% of new subsidies were allocated for children with special needs.
New Brunswick	The Integrated Day Care Services Program (IDC) is targeted to children 2 to 5 years of age who have an identified developmental delay or who are at risk of developmental delay due to biological or environmental factors, including living in poverty. Eligibility is determined in consultation with health practitioners and providers, and includes a home assessment. Funding of up to $3000 may be provided to integrated centres to facilitate inclusion. As of March 31, 1995 there were 72 integrated day care facilities with a total of 388 available spaces. No special training is required to work with special needs children.
Québec	Québec has a policy that encourages inclusion of children with special needs in regular programs. Several grants are available to facilitate this.
Ontario	Ontario does not have a written policy regarding children with special needs but supports integration in theory. *The Day Nurseries Act* authorizes segregated day nurseries to serve handicapped children 2-18 years and to integrate handicapped children age 2-10 years. In practice, there are few segregated programs remaining. Integrated programs serving children with special needs are required to provide specialized programming and to employ one resource teacher for every 4 handicapped children. Resource teachers are required to have specialized training beyond the early childhood educator credential.
Manitoba	Manitoba has no written policy on children with special needs. Funding for children with disabilities in provincially-funded programs, including nursery schools, is provided through the Children with Disabilities program. Children with special needs are integrated into many child care centres, but most do not receive additional funding. There is now a ceiling on provincial funding for special needs grants. The Society for Manitobans with Disabilities operates a segregated preschool program with 40 spaces. This receives government funding through the Department of Family Services. There is no special training required for staff working with children with disabilities.

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Saskatchewan	There is no written policy regarding child care for children with special needs but the provincial bias is towards integration. There are no segregated child care programs. Integration of up to 15% (25% with special approval) of children with special needs is permitted in a child day care centre. The child care program is required to provide appropriate equipment and furnishings and plan for each child's individual needs. Funding may be available to support these additional costs. Staff working with special needs children are required to have additional training.
Alberta	There is no written policy for children with special needs. The Integrated Day Care Program in Alberta provides assistance for children with special needs so they can participate in mainstream day care centres or approved family day homes. Funding varies depending on the special needs of the child and the type of service required. Funds are paid to contracted operators on behalf of eligible children.
British Columbia	Historically, British Columbia had both segregated and integrated child care programs for children with special needs. In September 1993 the Special Needs Day Care Review Board released their report, *Supported Child Care*. The report proposed to work towards a more inclusive approach. The supported Child Care initiative is funded through a federal-provincial strategic initiatives agreement of $8 million over four years. Staff working with special needs children are required to have specialized training.
Northwest Territories	There are no segregated child care programs for children with special needs. Care providers are funded to provide extra support, and parents are eligible for fee assistance for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. This subsidy eligibility requires a financial needs assessment to be applied and parents must have a medical referral from a recognized health care official for the child to be in developmental care.
Yukon Territory	New child care regulations, implemented September 1, 1995, state that children with special needs in mainstream child care programs must be integrated to the fullest extent possible. A child is designated "special needs"on the assessment of a child care professional. An Individual Program Plan must be developed for the child in consultation with staff, parents and professionals in the community. The Plan outlines goals and objectives for the child. There are no segregated child care programs in the Yukon Territory.

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Table 9
Annual child care expenditures for each child 0-12 years - 1995[1]

Province/Territory	Expenditure per child ($)	Total provincial expenditure ($)
Newfoundland & Labrador	30.41	2,980,000
Prince Edward Island	67.01	1,682,507
Nova Scotia	95.22	14,894,132
New Brunswick	25.39	3,200,000
Québec	170.84	203,694,724
Ontario	281.81	541,800,000
Manitoba	228.03	45,203,800
Saskatchewan	66.32	12,713,910
Alberta	127.52	67,623,000
British Columbia	226.00	140,803,661
Northwest Territories[2]	81.74	1,708,359
Yukon Territory[2]	518.56	4,148,490

1 Estimate based on total provincial expenditures (above) and total number of children 0-12

2 Estimates of annual expenditures per child for both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are based on **projected numbers of children 0-14 years of age**, and so are not comparable to the figures given for the other provinces.

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Table 10
Net income eligibility levels for full and partial child care fee subsidies in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory		Full subsidy up to ($)	Partial subsidy up to ($)
Newfoundland & Labrador	1 parent, 1 child	9,960	18,240
	2 parents, 2 children	11,040	19,320
Prince Edward Island	1 parent, 1 child	10,080	22,200
	2 parents, 2 children	14,880	39,168
Nova Scotia	1 parent, 1 child	16,812	24,540
	2 parents, 2 children	17,712	34,092
New Brunswick	1 child, 2 yrs and older	15,000	23,100
	1 child, under 2 years	15,000	24,180
Quebec	1 parent, 1 child	12,000	35,800
	2 parents, 2 children	16,800	40,300
Ontario	1 parent, 1 child		15,998[1]
	2 parents, 2 children		26,993[1]
Manitoba	1 parent, 1 child	13,787	24,369
	2 parents, 2 children	18,895	40,059
Saskatchewan[2]	1 parent, 1 child	19,668	31,920
	2 parents, 2 children	20,868	45,720
Alberta	1 parent, 1 child	18,710	25,765
	2 parents, 2 children	22,780	37,970
British Columbia	1 parent, 1 child	18,984	27,816
	2 parents, 2 children	23,016	31,846
Northwest Territories		Refer to footnote 3	
Yukon Territory	1 parent, 1 child	17,772	28,572
	2 parents, 2 children	26,172	47,772

1. There are no data on province-wide income levels for subsidy eligibility. Instead, Metropolitan Toronto data describing average incomes of families receiving subsidy are provided.
2. Income levels for subsidy eligibility are gross income.
3. Eligibility varies with clients' actual housing, utility and child care costs, plus social assistance rates of food and clothing. A needs assessment is applied so there is no set point at which subsidy ceases to be available. There is no territory-wide maximum subsidy. Maximums are set for the type of care. There is no minimum user fee.

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Table 11
Maximum number of children aged 0-6 permitted in unregulated child care in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Number of children	Includes provider's children	Excludes provider's children
Newfoundland & Labrador	4	✔	
Prince Edward Island	5	✔	
Nova Scotia	6	✔	
New Brunswick	4	✔	
Québec	6	✔	
Ontario	5		✔
Manitoba	4	✔	
Saskatchewan	8	✔	
Alberta	6	✔	
British Columbia	2		✔
Northwest Territories	4	✔	
Yukon Territory	3		✔

Table 12
Legislated staff:child ratios in full-day centre-based child care in Canada (selected age groups) - 1995

Province/Territory	2 years	4 years	6 years
Newfoundland & Labrador	1:6	1:8	1:8
Prince Edward Island	1:5	1:10	1:12
Nova Scotia	1:7	1:7	1:15
New Brunswick	1:5	1:10	1:15
Québec	1:8	1:8	1:15
Ontario	1:5	1:8	1:15
Manitoba	1:6	1:9	1:15
Saskatchewan	1:5	1:10	1:15
Alberta	1:6	1:8	1:10*
British Columbia	1:4	1:8	1:8
Northwest Territories	1:6	1:9	1:10
Yukon Territory	1:6	1:8	1:12

In some provinces, an age may fall into more than one age group. For example, a 2 year old may be categorized as 0-2 years or as 2-3 years. The ratios in this table represent a choice of the older age range in these cases.

* The Alberta legislation covers children up to 6 years. Therefore, this ratio is for a 5-6 year age group.

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Table 13
Maximum group sizes in full-day centre-based child care in Canada (selected age groups) - 1995

Province/Territory	2 years	4 years	6 years
Newfoundland & Labrador	25	25	25
Prince Edward Island	not specified	not specified	not specified
Nova Scotia	not specified	not specified	not specified
New Brunswick	10	20	30
Quebec	30	30	30
Ontario	15	16	30
Manitoba	12	18	30
Saskatchewan	10	20	30
Alberta	12	16	20
British Columbia	12	25	25
Northwest Territories	12	18	20
Yukon Territory	12	16	24

In some provinces, a child may fall into more than one age groups. For example, a 24-month-old may be categorized as 0-2 years or 2-3 years. The group sizes in this table represent a choice of the older age range in these cases.

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Table 14
Minimum early childhood training requirements in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Staff qualifications
Newfoundland & Labrador	Centre supervisors must have either a one year certificate in early childhood education and one year experience in a licensed centre, or a 2 year diploma with no specifications regarding experience. A related degree with one year's experience in a licensed centre is considered a comparable qualification. Supervisors approved prior to 1989 are not required to have these qualifications. If more than 25 children are enrolled in a centre, the Day Care and Homemaker Services Licensing Board recommends, but does not require, that a second person with supervisor qualifications be present.
Prince Edward Island	Centre supervisors and one full-time staff member in each program must have at least a one or 2 year early childhood development diploma or university child study degree. Thirty hours of in-service training every 3 years are required for all staff.
Nova Scotia	Centre director and 2/3 of the staff must have either a one or 2 year early childhood education certificate or diploma or 2 years experience, one course and a 35 hour workshop on child development and curriculum. All staff must have first-aid training.
New Brunswick	No early childhood education training or experience is required. Staff must be at least 16 years old. Staff 16-19 years old are required to be supervised by a primary staff member who must be at least 19 years old. All staff must have first-aid training.
Québec	One third of staff must have a college diploma or university degree in early childhood education (ECE) or 3 years of experience plus a college attestation degree or certificate in ECE.
Ontario	Centre supervisors must have a 2 year diploma in early childhood education from an approved College of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) or the equivalent, and at least 2 years' experience working in a day nursery with children who are of the same age and developmental level as the children in the day nursery where the supervisor is employed. A Ministry Director has the authority to waive the educational requirements for directors and other staff in a specific program. One staff person with each group of children must have a 2 year early childhood education diploma (CAAT) or equivalent. A resource teacher must hold a diploma in early childhood education or academic equivalent and have completed a post-secondary school program related to the needs of handicapped children. If working with multiply-handicapped children, the resource teacher must also have a current standard certificate in first-aid. There are no training or experience requirements for staff other than resource teachers who are working with children who have special needs.

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Manitoba	Manitoba has the following 3 qualification levels: CCW III: An approved CCW II program and a recognized certificate program; or an approved degree program from a recognized university. CCW II: Child Day Care Competency-based Assessment (CBA) Program; or an approved diploma in child care services from a recognized community college. CCW I: Complete secondary education (grade 12 or equivalent); or any certificate, diploma or graduate post-graduate degreee unrelated to child care; or one post-secondary level accredited course in child care. All staff must be 18 years of age and have first-aid training. Two-thirds of a full-time centre's preschool staff must be Child Care Workers (CCW) II or III. One-half of staff employed in school-age centres and nursery schools must have completed early childhood education training. Supervisors are required to be qualified as a Child Care Worker III and to have one year's experience.
Saskatchewan	Centre supervisors must have a one year certificate in child care or equivalent. Every staff member must take a 130 hour child care orientation course or equivalent, provided through regional community colleges, unless the person has a one year certificate in child care or equivalent. One staff member in each centre must have completed a first-aid course. Staff working with children who have special needs must have additional training.
Alberta	Program directors are required to have training equivalent to a 2 year public college diploma in early childhood education. One in 4 staff in each centre is required to have training equivalent to a one year public college early childhood education certificate. All other child care staff are required to have a 50 hour orientation course or equivalent course work.
British Columbia	There are 3 categories of training: *Early childhood educator* - Basic (at least 10 months) early childhood training program offered by an approved institution and 500 hours of supervised work experience. *Infant/toddler educator* - Basic early childhood education program plus specialized training related infant/toddler care and education. *Special needs educator* - Basic early childhood education program plus specialized training related to children with special needs. For the purposes of defining staffing requirements in child care programs, people who are currently enrolled in basic early childhood education training are called assistant early childhood educators.

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British Columbia (continued)	Group day care, under 36 months - Each group of 5 to 8 children requires one infant/toddler educator and one early childhood educator. Each group of 9 to 12 children requires one early childhood educator and one assistant. Group day care, 30 months to school-age - Each group requires one early childhood educator plus assistants. Out-of-school and child-minding - Staff must be older than 19 years and have taken a course on the care of young children or have relevant work experience. Special needs - Special needs facilities (group care facilities where at least 25% of the children have special needs) require one special needs educator for every group of 4 or fewer children. Larger groups require one special needs educator plus early childhood educators.
Northwest Territories	Must be at least 19 years and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.
Yukon Territory	In centre-based care, each group of children must be under the supervision of at least one caregiver who is certified in a first-aid course approved by the director. By September, 1997, 50% of the regular staff in a program must meet or exceed the Child Care Worker I qualifications. By 1999, the new regulations require that an additional 30% of the staff must meet or exceed the Child Care Worker II qualifications. By 2000, the new regulations require that an additional 20% of staff must meet or exceed the Child Care Worker III qualifications. Child Care Worker I: successfully completed a 60 hour introduction to early childhood development course or equivalent. Child Care Worker II: successfully completed one year of training in early childhood development or equivalent. Child Care Worker III: successfully completed 2 or more years of training in early childhood development or equivalent.

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Table 15
Requirements for family day care providers in Canada - 1995

Province/Territory	Requirements
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland does not have regulated family day care.
Prince Edward Island	A 30 hour training program, 2 letters of reference and current first-aid certificate.
Nova Scotia	Provider must be at least 18 years, not on the child abuse registry, and cleared of having a criminal record by the RCMP or local police. No early childhood training or experience is required by the province.
New Brunswick	Providers must be at least 19 years old and have first-aid training. No early childhood education training or experience is required.
Quebec	Family day care providers must hold a first-aid certificate and complete a training program lasting at least 24 hours pertaining to child development, health and diet issues and organization and leadership in a "life environment". Many agencies provide additional training for providers although none is required by government.
Ontario	There are no caregiver training qualifications specified in provincial regulations. Regulation requires caregivers to be older than 18 years, and, if working with handicapped children, to hold a standard first-aid certificate. Many agencies provide training for caregivers.
Manitoba	There are no training requirements for regulated family day care providers. Providers must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid first-aid certificate. Family day care providers are assessed by Child Day Care for their suitability to provide care based on recognized family day care standards.
Saskatchewan	Must be 18 years, and required to take an orientation course and first-aid training. There are no early childhood training requirements.
Alberta	No formal training requirements.
British Columbia	Must be over 19 years and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.
Northwest Territories	A provider must be a minimum of 19 years of age and have a first-aid certificate. There are no early childhood training requirements.
Yukon Territory	Caregivers must complete a 60 hour introductory early childhood development course, a specific family day home course, or equivalent within the first year they provide care for children. Caregivers must be 18 years of age and have a first-aid certificate.

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Table 16
How is family day care regulated in Canada? - 1995

Province/Territory	Provincial regulations
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland does not have regulated family day care.
Prince Edward Island	Providers are individually licensed.
Nova Scotia	Family day care providers are supervised by licensed agencies.
New Brunswick	Individually licensed.
Québec	Family day care providers are supervised by licensed agencies.
Ontario	The province licenses private home day care agencies which then enter into agreements with caregivers to provide child care, and provide supervision as specified in the regulations.
Manitoba	Individually licensed.
Saskatchewan	Individually licensed.
Alberta	Family day care homes are not licensed. The government enters into contracts with family day care home agencies to approve and monitor providers according to provincial standards. Agencies contract with individual care providers.
British Columbia	Individually licensed.
Northwest Territories	Individually licensed.
Yukon Territory	Individually licensed.

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ABOUT THE CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Childcare Resource and Research Unit at the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, is a policy and research-oriented facility which focuses on child care and related issues.

The Resource Unit has a commitment to the development of a universally accessible, comprehensive, high quality, non-profit child care system. It contributes to advancement of this system by:

- providing public education, resources and consultation to groups and individuals;
- fostering, developing and carrying out research relevant to child care;
- facilitating communication on child care;
- providing interpretation of research and policy;
- organizing and disseminating information and resources.

The Resource Unit maintains a comprehensive library and database (which are available to the public), provides consultation on policy, research and other projects, and produces an Occasional Paper series. Students, advocates, service providers, policy makers and others with an interest in child care may use its facilities and resources.

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